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Security forces arrest a Palestinian in Hebron yesterday after breaking up clashes between Arabs and Jews. (Reuters)

Ross here in effort to wrap up talks

US envoy to push Arafat to close Hebron deal

DAVID MAKOVSKY and JON IMMANUEL

VISITING US special Middle East peace coordinator Dennis Ross is expected to urge Palestinian Authority leader Yasser Arafat to promptly wrap up a Hebron pullback deal, US officials said last night.

Officials in the Prime Minister's Office have made clear that further IDF pullbacks will only occur on the basis of "reciprocity," in the form of PA adherence to the Oslo Accords.

Meanwhile, for the second time in three weeks, disturbances erupted next to the Jewish quarter of Hebron between Jews and Muslims, leaving two Palestinians injured and two arrested.

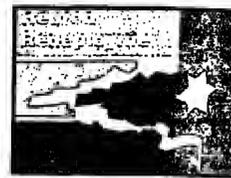
US State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said Ross is carrying some new ideas on the Hebron issue. It is believed he is also carrying a letter from President Bill Clinton.

Ross met with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu last night and was expected to meet with Arafat late last night or some time today.

Ross's visit comes after Secretary of State Warren Christopher made clear on Thursday it is the Palestinians' turn to demonstrate flexibility on the Hebron issue, now that the Netanyahu government has modified its position.

US officials have made clear privately that Arafat would be a political loser if he allows the Hebron talks to keep festering. When asked if the ball is in Arafat's court, one US official said, "I would not disagree with that." US officials have been saying in recent weeks that they viewed no purpose to a Ross visit unless he can conclude the Hebron talks. To avoid an open-ended negotiating situation for Ross, US officials said Ross would only be visiting for two days.

However, US officials are con-



cerned that trust may be lacking between Israel and the Palestinians on how the peace process will proceed beyond Hebron. So far, Netanyahu has refused to give a date for further IDF pullbacks beyond Hebron. In an interview published Friday, Netanyahu's aide David Bar-Ilan made clear that further IDF pullbacks could only occur on the basis of "reciprocity," namely adherence to the terms of the Oslo Accords.

As the US has publicly put the onus on Arafat for the first time in months, the PA leader is seeking to shift it to Israel.

During a meeting with Labor MK Yossi Beilin in Gaza Friday, Arafat denied any single section of the Hebron deal has been sealed. "We are at square one," Arafat declared, listing areas which are not yet agreed.

Among items Arafat mentioned was the civilian accord. This section has already been put under the heading "agreed upon version." Netanyahu's office made clear last night that they would "not reopen" already agreed parts of a Hebron deal.

Arafat told Beilin that he did not want Ross to serve as a mediator. Moments later, he changed his mind, saying he knew there was no substitute for the US.

In an interview last night, Beilin said he defended Ross during an hour-long lunch with Arafat. "I told Arafat that you make a big

mistake if you turn Ross into an enemy," Beilin said. "The US is the superpower of the world, and you must accept its representatives. Dennis is the biggest expert in the US on the Middle East peace process. I reminded Arafat how much Dennis did to bridge the differences on Oslo II in September [1995]. I told him we need to put Hebron behind us."

In Hebron, each side blamed the other for the disturbances in the city yesterday.

As in the Shabbat clash on November 30, settlers claimed Palestinians began attacking Israeli girls, pulling their hair as they walked home from synagogue services.

Palestinians claimed settlers attacked Palestinian schoolchildren on their way home from school.

Soldiers intervened, forcibly separating Palestinian men and settlers. One Palestinian was led away by soldiers, his face covered with blood. The incident took place on a main road between the Avraham Avinu quarter and the Machpela Cave, the only street where Israelis have to encounter large numbers of Palestinians to get from one part of the Jewish quarter to another.

The entire area is to remain under IDF security control when a pullback takes place.

The clash was the second incident in Hebron this weekend. On Friday a firebomb was lobbed near Beit Hadassah on Shuhadeh Street, the road Palestinians want to reopen to Arab businesses and traffic. It was largely sealed off by checkpoints after Baruch Goldstein killed 29 Arabs in the Machpela Cave in 1994. Israel has promised to reopen the street within two months. Palestinians want it opened immediately.

Calls for Weizman to resign over anti-gay slurs

BATSHEVA TSUR and ITIM

MERETZ MK Naomi Chazan called on President Ezer Weizman to resign last night, in the wake of his remarks Friday that homosexuality is "abnormal."

Dozens of homosexuals and lesbians gathered last night outside Beit Hanassi to protest the president's remarks. "Weizman resign. We want another president," they chanted.

The remarks that raised their ire were made by Weizman Friday in response to a question about homosexuality.

"I like a man who wants to be a man and a woman who wants to be a woman, but not a man who wants to be a woman," Weizman said during a meeting with pupils at the Reali High School in Haifa. "It is hard for me to regard [homosexuality and lesbianism] as normal," he added.

Weizman said there was an ongoing discussion about whether homosexuality was caused by genetic or psychological factors. "In my eyes, this is an abnormal phenomenon," he said, "and it should be discussed from the social and public points of view. I personally do not accept this business of everyone coming out of the closet. It seems to me to be weird."

The president noted that the Bible proscribes

homosexuality. It also bans sodomy, he said. "I hope you are not in favor of sodomy," he said to the pupil who had posed the question. Neither phenomenon can be socially acceptable, Weizman said.

Asked whether he favored allowing marriage between two persons of the same sex, Weizman said: "If I were an MK, and if such a law were brought before me, I'd vote against it. I know this will anger all the feminists. I like a man who wants to be a man... and not one who wants to be a woman... I am speaking not as the president but as Ezer Weizman," he said, to the applause of the pupils.

Weizman called for legal steps to determine the status of homosexuals and lesbians and said it was up to society not to encourage this phenomenon. In the past, he noted, homosexuals were considered a security risk. "There should be a law governing how to relate to homosexuality," he added.

"I am aware that homos suffer in society. I'm not pleased about that. But," he said, "there is too much fuss about this. It is exaggerated. It

has turned [homosexuality] into something beautiful."

At the protest in Jerusalem, one of the demonstrators said, "Discrimination is discrimination. Yesterday, Weizman discriminated against women," referring to past remarks by the president that irked feminists. "Today he is against homosexuals and tomorrow it will be someone else," she said.

"He simply can't go on being a president if he discriminates against different sectors of the population," she added.

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid said yesterday that he had spokeo with the president and had made him understand the gravity and ugliness of his comments.

Homosexuals are honored citizens of the country, just like all other citizens, and the president must give them the same respect, Sarid said.

Sarid, in a statement issued last night, said he hoped Weizman would find a way to express regret for his comments against homosexuals. Sarid said that Weizman will probably meet this week with representatives of the homosexual community.

PA cool to Bar-Ilan's statehood comments

JON IMMANUEL

THE Palestinian Authority reacted coolly to an interview in *The Jerusalem Post* Friday indicating that the government might be able to live with the idea of Palestinian statehood - limited and demilitarized - as part of a final settlement.

Until now, the Likud has opposed a state for the Palestinians and even the Labor government did not officially endorse statehood. But PA Cabinet Secretary Ahmed Abdel-Rahman said the statement by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's senior policy adviser David Bar-Ilan was noted, but not taken seriously.

"It is a contradiction of what is happening on the ground. If it is meant to be a signal, the timing is not good. There is no confidence now. We have to deal with the details before we deal with the big issues," Abdel-Rahman said.

Abdel-Rahman said he could not define the exact differences with the Israeli government on the Hebron redeployment negotiations, only that "the Israelis are speaking in generalities."

It appears the Palestinians have hardened their demands for specific commitments following the

fraying of mutual confidence during the past six months. Arafat has demanded Israel pledge itself to continue the talks after the Hebron redeployment and commit itself to a timetable for implementation of further withdrawals. Israel has agreed implementation but refuses to commit itself to specific dates.

Over the weekend, a dispute arose in the National Religious Party over Netanyahu's possible acceptance of a Palestinian state.

MK Avraham Stern, considered an NRP moderate, said in general he agreed with Bar-Ilan's statements. "The word state does not frighten me," he said. "What is more important is the essence of the Palestinian entity. To me it is important to retain united Jerusalem, non-return to the pre-1967 borders, keeping most of the settlements under Israeli sovereignty and opposition to the right of return."

On the other hand, NRP faction leader Hanan Porat called on Netanyahu to "come out of the Palestinian state tunnel" to which he is being led by the Left and the Arab world.

"Netanyahu was elected in order to restore this land to the people of Israel," Porat said.

3 held after attack on IDF jeep in Golan

DAVID RUDGE

THREE suspects have been arrested in connection with a firebomb attack on an IDF jeep Friday in the Druse village of Majdal Shams on the Golan Heights - the second such incident within a week.

The firebomb was thrown at IDF soldiers driving through the village Friday evening, but it narrowly missed their jeep, instead igniting nearby and damaging a parked car.

Two suspects were arrested at the scene and a third was also detained for disturbing police during their inquiries.

Large forces of police and IDF troops were sent to the area and widespread inquiries were mounted in Majdal Shams and neighboring Druse villages. There were no further arrests.

"We take a very serious view of this attack and we are investigating if there is any connection between it and a similar incident last week, as well as other incidents in the area recently," said Supt. Eliezer Binjamin, police spokesman for the Galilee district.

In the attack the previous Friday, a firebomb was buried at an IDF command car patrolling near the Syrian border on the outskirts of Majdal Shams. The vehicle was hit and set alight, but the soldiers on board were unhurt and managed to extin-

guish the flames.

The firebomb attacks mark what appears to be an escalation in nationalistic incidents on the Golan Heights in the past few months.

The other cases included arson attacks on a police post in Mas'ada village and on a building housing the Income Tax Authority office in Majdal Shams.

There have also been incidents of arson attacks on businesses owned by Druse who are considered to be pro-Israeli, as well as cases of stone-throwing at police vehicles and the raising of Syrian flags and slogan daubing.

Police and the security services are investigating whether the incidents might be the work of an underground pro-Syrian organization or an ad-hoc group of local residents.

Binjamin said the incidents had broken a long period of relative quiet in the Golan Heights Druse villages, which in itself was disturbing.

Meanwhile, in an unrelated matter scores of people attended the funeral service in Majdal Shams yesterday for the grandson of Sheikh Ibrahim al-Atrash - the Druse leader who fought against the Turks in Syria's struggle for independence. Heavy fighting in south Lebanon continues, Page 2

Peru hostages may be freed on Tuesday

LJMA (Reuters) - All the roughly 340 hostages still being held by Marxist rebels inside the Japanese ambassador's residence in Peru will be set free on December 24, a caller from the residence told Peruvian radio yesterday.

"On the 24th at 10 at night absolutely all the hostages will be freed," the man, who identified himself as "Comandante Evaristo," said.

There was no way to immediately verify the information, but the Radio Programas del Peru station told listeners the caller was the same person who had spoken earlier in them from the inside of the embassy residence.

Police sources say they have identified "Evaristo" as Nestor Cerpa Cartolini, the leader of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA).

The Red Cross said yesterday it did not yet know if the call was authentic.

Earlier story, Page 4

CORRECTION

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Lebanese Christian leader denies meeting Netanyahu

BEIRUT (AP) - Authorities have detained 62 Christians suspected of involvement in anti-government acts, amid allegations that an opposition Christian leader

held a secret meeting with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Dori Chamoun, leader of the right-wing National Liberal Party, denied yesterday that he had met with Netanyahu. He also dismissed as "nonsense" allegations that his followers set off bombs and fired on Syrian troops.

Chamoun, 62, is the son of the late president Camille Chamoun. Earlier report, Page 4

Cold War not over, says Russian defense minister

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Russian Defense Minister Igor Rodionov said in a television interview yesterday that the Cold War with the United States was not over.

"I think the Cold War is not yet over, to a certain extent," Rodionov told Russian television on Wednesday.

"There exist two countries, Russia and the United States, with powerful nuclear potentials capable of destroying the globe and

turning each other into dust," he said. "Is there a 100 percent guarantee that a possible conflict can be avoided?"

Yeltsin back at work, Page 4

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Sharon signals support for unity government

NATIONAL Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon expressed his most explicit advocacy yet for a national unity government at a gathering of United Kibbutz Movement representatives from the Negev at his ranch at Sha'ar HaNegev.

Sharon said "a reconciliation between the political sides, and their working together, is a prime national necessity."

He said this would become possible "if each side would give in a little. If each side would make some compromise, it would be possible to work together for the good of the country."

Sharon has been meeting with Labor leader Shimon Peres in a series of private huddles for over a year. The latest meeting gave rise to considerable speculation the two are hatching plans to set up a

SARAH HONIG

broad coalition.

Peres has openly advocated a national unity government, a fact many political observers interpreted as a last ditch attempt to preempt a takeover of the Labor Party by MK Ehud Barak and to cement his own primacy in the party by entering the government as Labor's senior representative.

Sharon, until now, had denied he is pushing for a broader coalition and said the meetings were private in nature and that they dated back to just after Peres became prime minister following the Rabin assassination.

Sources close to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, however, denied yesterday that any new moves are afoot to create a national unity coalition. The sources

especially denied reports that if such a coalition would be set up, jobs for Labor ministers would be created by removing Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai from his post and by kicking David Levy upstairs as the next president.

The sources said these rumors are not only groundless but also absurd. The prime minister has every confidence in Mordechai and has no plans to block the reelection of President Ezer Weizman to a second term. The sources argued the rumors may be an attempt to foment discord in the cabinet.

Netanyahu, they said, had empowered no one to negotiate a national unity coalition on his behalf. Netanyahu's own words about the need for a national consensus are not to be taken as calling for a national unity government, the sources said.



More than 1,000 demonstrators gather Friday on the 3.5 acres in Ras al-Amud in eastern Jerusalem that are slated for a Jewish housing project. Dozens of police in riot gear ringed the demonstrators, who gathered just south of the Old City where the Jewish homes are to be built. The rally, led by Palestinian cabinet ministers and Israeli MKs, passed without incident. (Graham Hoagland)

Heavy fighting in security zone

HEAVY fighting continued in south Lebanon over the weekend, as both Israel and Lebanon submitted complaints to the Grapes of Wrath monitoring committee over recent incidents.

The complaints relate to fighting Thursday when Hizbullah gunmen fired mortars at the South Lebanese Army's Barasheet position, during a visit to the post by OC Northern Command Maj. Gen. Amiram Levine and senior officers. Levine was unhurt, but Brig. Gen. Eli Amini, head of the IDF's Lebanese Liaison Unit, suffered scratches from shrapnel, and was later examined at Haifa's Rambam hospital, before rejoining his unit. It was the second time Amini had been hurt in fighting in the zone in the space of a week.

Israel charged the Hizbullah mortar fire originated from inside

DAVID RUDGE

Barasheet village, north of the zone, breaching the Grapes of Wrath understandings which ban firing or the launching of attacks from residential areas.

Lebanon complained that during Thursday's exchanges, IDF artillery shells damaged two houses in Barasheet and a nearby village and the lives of civilians were endangered. It is not yet known when the five-nation monitoring committee will meet to discuss the complaints, because of the pending Christmas and New Year holidays.

There were no casualties among IDF or SLA troops in the fierce fighting that occurred in the security zone and the Jezzine enclave Friday and yesterday.

The fighting began around noon Friday with a barrage of Sagger anti-

tank missiles, mortars and light weapons fire on troops loyal to SLA commander Gen. Antoine Lahad in the Jezzine region, north of the zone.

The soldiers were on operational duties in the area when they came under attack. The SLA troops were unhurt and returned fire. The shooting in the region continued for several hours.

There were reports that Katyusha rockets were fired towards the Galilee during the fighting Friday, but there was no confirmation from either side and no remains of any rockets were found.

The fighting continued late on Friday night with a machine gun attack on an SLA post in the central sector of the zone. It resumed yesterday with more mortar fire at three other SLA outposts in the eastern sector of the zone and the Jezzine enclave.

Germany still pays SS pensions to non-Germans

THOUSANDS of non-German SS veterans - including nearly 4,000 in the US and Britain - receive disability pensions from Bonn, while Holocaust survivors in Eastern Europe do not yet get compensation, according to a London newspaper.

The SS pensions also are higher than the highest amount proposed for survivors from the East Bloc.

There are 3,377 SS pensioners in the United States, 810 in France, 324 in Belgium, 2,380 in Slovenia, 1,014 in Romania, and 1,010 in Croatia, according to official German figures reported last week in *The Times* of London.

In Britain, 459 SS veterans receive pensions from Germany averaging £2,800 (NIS 15,000) a year, the newspaper said. "It is outrageous that they can pay [these pensions] but continue to resist all efforts to extend pensions to Jewish

MARILYN HENRY
NEW YORK

victims in Eastern Europe," said Andrew Baker, director of the division of European affairs of the American Jewish Committee.

There is a startling symmetry between the number of SS pensioners and the number of Holocaust survivors in Eastern Europe, Baker said. It has been estimated that 13,000 survivors in Eastern Europe would qualify for compensation from the German government - except that, so far, those who live in the former Warsaw Pact states are ineligible for compensation.

The majority of those receiving disability pensions are former Eastern Europeans who served in the Waffen SS or in police groups attached to the military, the British newspaper reported. The SS pension figures were obtained

by Volker Beck, a member of the Bundestag who has been pressing for compensation for Nazi victims in Eastern Europe.

While it was known that the German government pays disability pensions to veterans of the Waffen SS, this was thought to be the first time that the extent and the amount of the pensions was reported.

The amount also was offensive to those pressing for compensation for survivors. Baker noted that one compensation proposal, put forward by Beck and other members of the German opposition, would have provided Eastern European survivors with pensions of DM 250 (NIS 600) a month. However, the German parliament is considering instead a proposal that would provide DM 80 million; over three years, to Jewish and non-Jewish Nazi victims in Eastern Europe.

Histadrut to blockade Haifa Chemicals plant

DAVID RUDGE

THE Histadrut plans to "blockade" the Haifa Chemicals factory in the south today as part of its campaign to win its fight at the company's sister plant in the Haifa industrial zone.

A mass demonstration is to be held outside the southern factory at Mishar Rotem, south of Beersheba, this morning. The union also plans to stop the supply of raw materials to the plant.

The move coincides with the resumption of negotiations between management and representatives of the 500 workers at the Haifa factory over a new collective labor agreement.

Management wants to annul the accord to implement sweeping cost-cutting measures, including reducing the staff by over 100 workers, to enable the company to compete profitably on overseas markets.

The workers are bitterly opposed to management's decision, fearing it would lead to massive redundancies, pay cuts and the introduction of personal contracts.

The dispute, which has closed the Haifa plant for two months, erupted in violent clashes at the factory last week between security guards and picketing workers.

Twelve people were injured, eight of them workers, as well as two policemen, a security guard and a journalist.

A tense quiet has reigned at the hayside plant since then, with the Haifa regional labor court ordering the number of workers staging a sit-in at the factory to be reduced to 50 and the number of security guards on the premises to be limited to 15.

Some Histadrut officials believe management engineered the dispute to cut back production at the Haifa plant and move most of the manufacturing to the Mishar Rotem site, where there is no organized union.

The union has instructed workers at the Dead Sea Works and nearby Rotem Fertilizers to stop supply coal shale and phosphates to the Haifa Chemicals factory in the south.

Accidents kill 3, injure 105

THREE people were killed and 105 were injured in some 75 road accidents over the weekend.

A woman pedestrian was hit and killed by a jeep while crossing a Bat Yam street at a crosswalk last night. The driver, a 19-year-old Tel Aviv woman, was detained by police for questioning then released.

A Palestinian was killed and two others were injured in an accident on the Halhoul bypass road when their car crashed head-on with another vehicle.

A 20-month-old baby girl was killed when she was hit by a pickup on Kafr Yafia yesterday. The girl had wandered off from a neighbor's home, where her mother was visiting. The driver, who did not notice the girl as he took off in his car, was detained for questioning.

Three people were injured, one seriously, one moderately, and the third lightly, in a traffic accident in Lod Friday night. The injured were brought to Assaf Harofeh Hospital in Tzrifin. Police are investigating the cause of the crash.

In Ashdod, a pedestrian suffered serious injuries when he was hit by a bus while crossing a street on Friday. He was brought to Rehovot's Kaplan Hospital. Police are investigating.

A 10-year-old Kiryat Gat girl was seriously injured when she was hit by an all-terrain vehicle as she was crossing a road near her home on Friday evening. The vehicle suddenly came at her head-on at high speed and hit her in the head. The driver, whose vehicle did not have any license plates, fled from the scene.

Police later located the driver and arrested him. He confessed to hitting the girl, saying he had fled because he had become frightened. The driver will be brought before a magistrate court judge this morning for a remand hearing.

Meanwhile, a Dir el-Assad man, Fiad Assadi, 50, who was seriously injured in a road accident two weeks ago, died yesterday in Haifa's Rambam Hospital. (Iim)

Latin Patriarch: PA towns a large prison

HAIM SHAPIRO

LATIN Patriarch Michel Sabbah this weekend issued a Christmas message that blasted Israeli authorities for turning Palestinian towns into "a large prison" and called for religious leaders to work for peace at a time, he said, when peace seems far away.

"We call upon religious leaders, Moslem, Christian and Jewish, and tell them you have a responsibility to work for peace at this time, when peace seems impossible," the patriarch said at a pre-Christmas press conference at the Latin Patriarchate in the Old City of Jerusalem.

Sabbah, the first Palestinian to serve as titular head of the Roman Catholic community in the Holy Land, has in the past been critical of Israel, but this year, he said, was one of the most difficult periods in the life of the Palestinian people.

Sabbah said the economic situation in Bethlehem and other towns was bad and becoming worse.

"Indeed, it is besieged by a system of permits depending upon the Israeli military will. Every Palestinian town is so transformed by this permits' system into a large prison," he said.

The Latin Patriarch also referred to the Jews of Israel who, he said, suffered and still suffer as a result of "lack of security." He did not specifically mention the victims of terror or condemn terror.

However, the bulk of the message was aimed directly at Israel. Israeli leaders, Sabbah said, should change their vision of peace and take into consideration that the Palestinians had a right to live their life in dignity.

CORRECTION

IN Friday's edition, it was reported that Claims Conference representatives began talks with the German authorities last March on paying reparations to those tens of thousands of survivors who had fallen between the cracks. But in July, the German government decided to break off the talks, saying they would resume only in 1999.

In fact, the talks were resumed after three months.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Or Akiva man stabbed to death

A 23-year-old Or Akiva resident was found stabbed to death yesterday morning in the town. Police said there were signs of a struggle on the body and that the man has a record of involvement in drugs and violence. The man was apparently murdered during a dispute over a drug deal, they said. (Iim)

Bomb explodes near Gaza bypass road

A makeshift bomb exploded Friday morning at a garbage dump west of the Karni Crossing on the Gaza bypass road, the Southern Command said. The explosion caused no injuries or damage. The bomb exploded a gas canister. Army sappers later detonated an adjacent gas container. The IDF had earlier said the explosion was caused by the sun heating the first gas canister.

Israeli and Palestinian forces arrived on the scene and closed the road while they examined the unexploded gas canister. The garbage dump is not on the bypass road and is used by the Palestinian population. (Iim)

Haredim throw rocks at police

Rocks and empty bottles were thrown at Jerusalem police from within Or Hatzafon Yeshiva near Rehov Bar-Ilan yesterday. Yesterday afternoon, dozens of haredim gathered near the yeshiva and threw stones at cars traveling the thoroughfare. Police arrived and pursued the stone-throwers.

They took shelter in the yeshiva and threw rocks and bottles at the police. Police said there were no injuries in the incident, although police vehicles were damaged. Last week, Jerusalem police chief Cmdr. Aryeh Amit criticized Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani for visiting the yeshiva during the peak of the dispute a few months ago over the closure of Rehov Bar-Ilan to traffic on Shabbat. (Iim)

'Rabbi Slept Late' author dies

Harry Kemelman, who delighted readers with 11 mysteries featuring a rabbi-sleuth, died last week at his home in Massachusetts.

Kemelman, 88, was the creator of David Small, a Conservative rabbi who reviewers dubbed a "Jewish Sherlock Holmes." When Small first appeared in print in 1964 in "Friday the Rabbi Slept Late," he became a trailblazer for Jewish detective fiction. Rabbi Small used Talmudic logic to solve crimes and also featured in a novel about a woman's journey toward conversion. It is used in adult education classes in the US.

Kemelman "was to rabbis what G.K. Chesterton was to priests," Otto Penzler, the owner of the Mysterious Bookshop in Manhattan, said.

Skeleton found in North

A human skeleton was found yesterday in a field near the entrance to Kafr Maghar in the Western Galilee, near the Acre-Karmiel road. The skeleton, which was sent to the Abu Kabir Forensics Institute for analysis, was discovered by a shepherd who alerted police. No belongings were found near the remains. (Iim)

Ecuadorian defense minister visits

Ecuador's defense minister, Gen. R. Victor Bayas Garcia, is due to arrive today for a one-week visit as the guest of Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai.

The Ecuadorian visitor will be received in a full military ceremony at the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv. He will hold meetings with Mordechai, Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak and OC Air Force Maj.-Gen. Eitan Ben-Elizhu. He will also visit Israel Aircraft Industries, Rafael, Elbit, Tadiran and other defense companies. (Jerusalem Post Staff)

Weizman opposes anniversary amnesty for criminals

BATSHEVA TSUR

PRESIDENT Ezer Weizman said he opposes a general amnesty for convicts during Israel's 50th anniversary celebrations.

"No official decision to pardon criminals has been taken," Weizman said, "but if there is such a decision, I shall oppose it." He said he was particularly opposed to a reprieve for murderers.

After assuming office, Weizman worked for an amendment to the law governing presidential pardons for murderers and recently changes were made which did not place the onus of a pardon on the president alone.

Weizman made his remarks during a visit to the Reali school in Haifa Friday.

Asked about negative perceptions of the country's political strategy abroad, Weizman said

that he believed Israel's image would improve once the Weizman issue was settled.

"I am not the first president to express views about political issues," he said in response to a question, and cited his predecessors, former presidents Yitzhak Navon and Chaim Herzog. "But perhaps I interfere a bit more. I believe the president has to express his views and to do something to push Israel's interests forward. I can make a contribution and I shall do so and there is no law preventing me from furthering the peace process."

Asked about talk of imminent war, Weizman said he felt this was not an accurate assessment. "But if there is some sort of explosion," he said, "it will be the Palestinians who will lose the most."

ברוך דיין אמת

We sadly announce the passing of

REBBETZIN ANNA RUBIN STOTLAND

formerly of Chicago, Illinois

The funeral will leave today from the Shmagar funeral parlor, Jerusalem at 2:30 p.m.

Shimshon and Lisa Rubin and family - Haifa
David and Peal (Paula) Tornhelm and family - Jerusalem

In deep sorrow, we announce the passing of our beloved mother, sister, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend

HELEN (Hinda) STAMPFER י"ח

The services will take place at the Shmagar funeral parlor, Jerusalem, today, Sunday, December 22, 1996 (12 Tevet, 5557), at 1 p.m.

Shiva at the Weiss Residence, Givat Shomron

The Weiss, Mlotek and Gelman Families
Grandchildren and their families

With deep sorrow we mourn the sudden death of

Prof GDALYA WISEMAN

our dearly beloved husband, father, grandfather

For funeral details
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Simpson wins battle for custody

WILLIAM CLAIBORNE
LOS ANGELES

O.J. Simpson was awarded full custody of his two young children by a family law judge Friday, 30 months after being charged with the murder of their mother, a crime for which he was acquitted last year.

Orange County Superior Court Judge Nancy Wieben Stock ruled that the maternal grandparents of the children—who have had legal guardianship of Sydney, 11, and Justin, 8, since the 1994 slayings of Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend, Ronald L. Goldman—had failed to demonstrate that custody by Simpson would be “clearly detrimental to their well-being.”

Natasha Roit, an attorney for the grandparents, Louis and Juditha Brown, denounced the judge for turning over the children to a man she called a dangerous wife-beater.

“I believe the children are at a substantial risk with Mr. Simpson. This is a man who committed domestic violence in the past and continues to deny it,” Roit told reporters. She said she had asked Wieben Stock to consider some evidence presented at Simpson’s murder trial, or at least read some of the trial transcript, but the judge had rejected the request. The long and contentious custody hearing was held behind closed doors.

(The Washington Post)



World War II veteran Georgy Buziasvili marches in Gori, Georgia, to commemorate Stalin's birthday.

Stalin's birthday celebrated in his hometown

GORI, Georgia (AP) — About 1,000 Communists demanding a return of the Soviet social safety net marched through Stalin's hometown yesterday to commemorate the 117th anniversary of his birth.

Hundreds of hard-liners also marched on Red Square in Moscow and laid flowers at the Soviet dictator's grave.

Josef Stalin's birthday also was celebrated by the baptism yesterday of his great-grandson and namesake in a church in Gori, his hometown in the Caucasus Mountains about 120 kilometers from the Georgian capital.

Stalin was educated at a church school and entered an Orthodox Christian seminary, but he was expelled for his revolutionary activities and became the leader of an atheist state that persecuted religious believers.

In Gori yesterday about 1,000 Communists joined Stalin's son, retired Col. Yevgeny Dzhughashvili, in marching from the house where he was born to a Stalin monument in the center of town.

They carried flowers, portraits of the dictator and placards reading “Give us back free medical care,” and “Give us back the social protection that was introduced by Stalin.”

Stalin ruled Russia from the death of Soviet founder Vladimir Lenin in 1924 until his own death in 1953.

Lebanon cracks down on Christian opposition

BEIRUT (Reuter) — The Lebanese government, in its first response to opposition allegations of widespread arrests of Christians, said yesterday security forces had detained a number of people suspected of involvement in violence.

One opposition politician told Reuters that up to 200 people had been detained, while the government gave no figure.

The Paris-based Rally for Lebanon (RPL), which is close to exiled Lebanese former general Michel Aoun, also said the number of detainees was up to 200 and that security forces were still picking up people.

The arrests are being made totally arbitrarily, targeting all opposition parties and movements, the group said.

It said detainees were being accused of belonging to a pro-Israeli network in Lebanon, a charge carrying a possible death sentence.

Prosecutor general Adnan Addoum said in a statement that the detentions followed increased activities by “disruptive elements” who wanted to harm Lebanon's ties with brotherly and friendly countries, an apparent reference to Syria.

Syria is the main power broker in Lebanon and has some 35,000 troops in the country.

Addoum said the activities included “armed attacks against civilians with hand grenades and firing with machineguns at a van carrying Syrian workers killing the driver and wounding some passengers...distributing leaflets attacking state officials and inciting sectarian strife.”

He gave no give details of when and where the attacks took place.

But on Friday, the Paris office of Aoun said dozens of Christians were detained after gunmen opened fire on a van carrying Syrian civilians on Wednesday in the Christian area of Tabarja north of Beirut, killing one person and wounding another.

Addoum said none of the detainees was officially charged and many were released on Friday.

Man arrested after IRA tries to kill policemen in children's hospital

SHAWN POGATCHNIK
BELFAST

POLICE arrested a man yesterday after the Irish Republican Army said it tried to kill officers guarding a senior Protestant politician in a children's hospital.

A gunman wearing an ill-fitting wig fired four bullets at three officers in a corridor of the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children, then escaped with an accomplice on foot. One bullet hit an officer in the foot, while another struck an empty baby incubator.

The officers had been guarding Nigel Dodds, a former Belfast mayor and secretary of Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party, as he visited the bedside of his 7-year-old son Andrew. In a later statement the IRA denied that Dodds was to have been assassinated.

Dodds' boy suffers from spina bifida, has been in and out of the hospital for months and collapsed last week, requiring surgery. Dodds several weeks ago requested police protection to visit the hospital, in the heart of Catholic west Belfast, a power base for the IRA and its allied Sinn Fein party.

Senior police officers said they believed the IRA was not gunning for Dodds.

“I don't believe anything the IRA says,” said Dodds, who assumed that the IRA had been observing his previous visits to the hospital to plan the attack. “An organization that can sanction a shooting in a children's hospital is capable of anything.”

Friday's shooting raises the prospect that the IRA's paramilitary enemies, so-called “loyalist” gangs from Protestant areas, will break their own 26-month-old cease-fire. The continuing loyalist truce — involving the two main organizations, the Ulster Defense Association and Ulster Volunteer Force — has been the biggest surprise of Northern Ireland's deteriorating peace process.

(AP)

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Yeltsin says he will return to Kremlin desk tomorrow

MOSCOW (Reuter) — President Boris Yeltsin, saying Russia needs “an active” leader, told the nation on Friday he would return to his Kremlin desk tomorrow morning.

“The country needs an active and energetic president, especially now,” Yeltsin said in a televised interview, the first since his multiple heart bypass operation on November 5.

Presidential spokesman Sergei Yastrzhembsky said earlier this week that the Russian leader had some surprises up his sleeve.

Yastrzhembsky said Wednesday that Yeltsin would make some “unexpected” moves once he is back at work full-time.

Yeltsin has been working only a few hours a day since he suffered a renewed bout of heart trouble in late June, only days before he was reelected.

Germany, Czech Republic seek to mend ties

MARY WILLIAMS WALSH
MUNICH

THE foreign ministers of Germany and the Czech Republic signed a declaration Friday aimed at mending a bilateral relationship that remains strained a half century after the end of World War II.

But critics in both countries complained the initiative was only making matters worse.

The ceremonial step, taken in the ornate Great Hall of the Cernin Palace in Prague, marked the end of two years of extremely disputatious negotiations.

The Czech Republic is the last of the countries occupied by Nazi Germany to fully normalize its relationship with the Federal Republic. The compromise declaration must only be approved by both countries' parliaments, then signed by the heads of government.

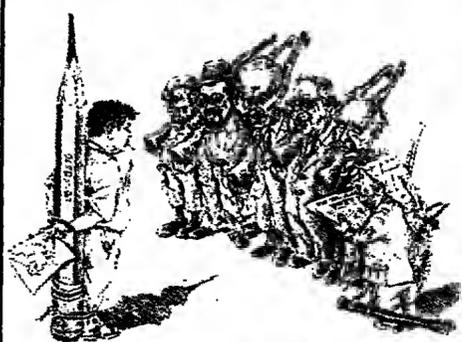
German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said at a news conference Friday that Bonn will now be motivated to “give special priority” to the Czech Republic's entry into the European Union and NATO, despite objections from Moscow.

His Czech counterpart, Josef Zieleniec, while saying he was happy that the negotiations were over, expressed continuing uncertainty that the two countries had solved their problems.

The central theme of the declaration is an agreement not to let bitterness over the past mar the future — a potentially bright future that is already coming to pass on the German-Czech border, where bilateral trade and investment are thriving.

(Los Angeles Times)

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Carl Sagan dead at 62

SEATTLE (AP) — Astronomer Carl Sagan, a gifted storyteller who extolled and explored the grandeur and mystery of the universe in lectures, books and an acclaimed TV series, died Friday of pneumonia after a two-year battle with bone marrow disease. He was 62.

Sagan was surrounded by his family when he died at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle, where he had a bone-marrow transplant in April 1995 and occasionally returned for treatment, said center spokeswoman Susan Edmunds. The center had identified his disease as myelodysplasia, a form of anemia also known as preleukemia syndrome.

Sagan, who lived in Ithaca, New York, helped transport astronomy into the living rooms of ordinary people, enthraling millions with his vivid writing and flamboyant television soliloquies.

He won the Pulitzer Prize for general nonfiction in 1978 for *The Dragons of Eden: Speculations on the Evolution of Human Intelligence*.

In 1980, his 13-part Public Broadcasting Service series *Cosmos* became the most-watched limited series in the history of American public television. The record was since surpassed by the series, *The Civil War*.



Astronomer Carl Sagan (Reuter)

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The series turned him into a national celebrity. While purists complained that he sometimes oversimplified and made significant interpretive errors, Sagan never shied away from the label of science popularizer.

“I wear the badge proudly,” he said in a 1994 interview with *The Associated Press*.

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IMA inadequate on sexual ethics

HEALTH SCAN
POST HEALTH REPORTER

RECENT news stories about physicians and psychologists having sex with patients prove that Israel is not immune to this phenomenon, which has been known abroad for years. The American Medical Association (AMA) has issued a strong condemnation and warned of malpractice and criminal suits; the subject is dealt with in US medical schools, but the Israel Medical Association (IMA) has so far failed to include a prohibition in its code of ethics.

So say Drs. Eliezer Witztum, Ya'acov Margolin, and Amihai Levy of the Beersheba Mental Health Center, the Health Ministry's psychiatric services branch and the Shalvata psychiatric hospital, writing in *Harefuah*. Sexual relations between doctors and patients have been known to exist for millennia; in fact, the Hippocratic Oath of doctors stressed the commitment to "overcome all temptations... especially the joys of life with a woman or man, if they are free or slaves."

William Masters and Virginia Johnson, the American sex therapists, reported in the '70s of many women who were taken advantage of by psychiatrists or psychologists while under treatment. Some of the practitioners claimed that sex was "part of the therapy" and thus permissible, while others even committed forbidden acts while the patient was unconscious or otherwise unable to defend herself.

The authors note that sex, or even mere romantic links, between patient and doctor can be very harmful. The patient can develop ambivalent feelings, making him feel like an abused child, or develop guilt feelings and "responsibility" for what happened. The patient may be unable in the aftermath to develop confidence in any other therapist, and being used in this way has been known to increase the risk of suicide.

Although the IMA's ethics committee has spoken out against this and called it a serious violation of ethics, the organization, as a whole, has not taken a clear position on it, and the medical schools and university psychology departments have to include a discussion in their curriculum, the authors conclude.

MENTAL HEALTH

HAS TO WAIT

Inclusion of psychiatric services in the basket of health services covered by the health funds will have to wait for at least a month. During the next few weeks, Knesset Labor and Social Affairs Committee chairman MK Maxim Levy will meet with four ministry directors-general and the heads of the health funds, to try to find a way to transfer government responsibility for psychiatric services to the insurers.

The Knesset committee, which

was to have approved the turnover last week, decided to discuss the issue again at the end of January. The most recent deadline for the transfer was to have been January 1, 1997.

Representatives of the four health funds told the committee that they needed more money to provide these services, already running a NIS 70 million deficit. "The solution to the problems of psychiatric care will not come from the government's shoving away responsibility and throwing it on the health funds," Levy said. Psychiatric services were to have been added to the basket of health services a year ago, but the lack of detailed ministry plans and disputes over implementation caused the delays in transfer.

Ministry mental health services director Dr. Ze'ev Kaplan said no extra funds beyond what the ministry spends - about NIS 600 million a year - can be allocated to the health funds, even though additional money is urgently needed.

Levy said he will soon meet with the directors-general of the Health, Finance, Housing and Labor and Social Affairs ministries and the insurers before a committee vote will be held on the issue.

HEART-FIXING AND HEART-WARMING

Undergoing heart surgery is frightening for an adult. How much more scary it can be for a child. No amount of talking about it is likely to ease fears as much as reading *Jeremy's Heart*, a 48-page, glossy and colorful children's book on the subject produced by the Schneider Children's Medical Center of Israel (SCMCI) in Petah Tikva.

Tikvah Halev, written in Hebrew by Yehuda Atlas and illustrated by Danny Kerzman, has been translated into English by Peter Cole and into Arabic by Muhand Darwish, so that it can be read by (or be read to) all the patients in the hospital's cardiac surgery department. A number of SCMCI staffers served as consultants. Atlas has shown a touching ability to get into the skin of such patients and describe not only what they will go through physically but also emotionally before and after heart surgery.

The story follows a little boy named Jeremy who was born with a congenital defect in his heart and can't run and play like everyone else in kindergarten. His parents spoil and overprotect him, but his doctors offer him the hope of being normal by having surgery. There is a happy ending, of course, as there is for most of the children who undergo such operations today. Costing NIS 50 and available from the hospital, the book is a must for such young patients (and reading it would calm even adults facing the same prospect).

JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

RESTORING motor functions to a child robbed of normality in a moment without oxygen before or during birth is like building a house, single-handedly, brick by brick. Physical and occupational therapists require infinite patience, well-honed skills, and an encouraging smile to help children born with cerebral palsy climb back into the functioning world.

A technique developed by a Czech-born physiotherapist, gymnast and sculptress who settled in London, is helping a dedicated cadre of therapists to speed CP children's progress. One of the leading teachers of the Bobath approach to the treatment of CP children was here recently to share her knowledge with local therapists, including staffers of the Dvora Agnon Pre-School Development Center (better known to Jerusalemites as the Gan Shikumi, or Rehabilitative Kindergarten).

Sarah Forsyth, a Canadian therapist who studied at the Bobath Center in London, was here recently on her fifth visit at the invitation of Dr. Sarah Capelovitch, director of continuing education and physical therapy at the kindergarten. Capelovitch, who was born in Lithuania and came here as a child, married in Canada but returned to work here 14 years ago after studying the Bobath technique intensively for more than a decade. Capelovitch is a primary instructor with the highest Bobath ranking in Israel, and three other local occupational therapists - Tehiya Eilat, Vardit Kindler and Orpah Fuchs-Bar - recently qualified as lower-rank Bobath-method professionals.

The kindergarten, in the capital's Rehov Yeshayahu, founded by the late, highly respected pediatric neurologist Professor Naomi Amir, is administered by Jerusalem Elwyn, a US-based voluntary organization devoted to physically disabled children, and affiliated medically to Shaare Zedek Hospital, where Amir spent her final years before succumbing to cancer.

CP affects 2.5 out of 1,000 live births all around the world, but other types of brain dysfunction affecting children account for many more cases. It is a motor nerve disorder, caused by a permanent brain defect or an injury before, during, or shortly after delivery. The symptoms depend on the area of the brain involved and the extent of the damage. Children with milder cases have spastic paralysis of the legs or both limbs on one side and normal intelligence. More severe cases involve mental retardation, blocked speech, vision and hearing, numbness, seizures, and widespread loss of normal muscle control.

Abnormalities in breathing, swallowing, sucking and responsiveness are usually visible after birth, but the stiff, awkward movements may be overlooked for several



Bobath training of CP sufferers can continue through childhood and can even benefit adults who suffered neurological damage due to a stroke. (Shai Zakai)

months. Walking is usually delayed, and when the child tries to walk, the movement has a scissor-like quality. Some reflexes are exaggerated and hard to control. Speech may be slurred, and potty training may be delayed. But early diagnosis and treatment of CP is vital so rehabilitation and recovery of as many abilities as possible can be launched.

OVER a decade ago, Israeli parents of CP children heard of a Hungarian technique, developed at the Peto Institute, to improve their functioning. A parents' lobby was formed, and public funds were allocated to

send therapists to Budapest for several years, to learn the technique and bring it back here. A number of institutions offering Peto therapy were set up here.

Forsyth, a resident of the small town of Orillia who worked at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, says the Peto method is not a therapeutic model but an educational one. "It's good for short-term educating of CP children, but it doesn't protect their bodies from long-term damage to the muscles," she says. "It can teach them to walk, but it doesn't acknowledge the complexity of CP. Some of Peto's principles have been inte-

grated into the Bobath method, but in effect it is very different."

The method was developed by Berta Bobath, an energetic and pioneering therapist who died, in her 70s, three years ago. "She looked at CP children in a different way: At their whole bodies and their movements. She understood what interfered with the movement of brain-damaged children and what could help them. The method is a hands-on approach to promote the child's ability to learn good movements and prevent them from using bad ones."

Until she came onto the scene, most CP victims were left in institutions, allowed little opportunity

for movement and causing their muscles to become stiff, weak and deformed from lack of use.

THE BOBATH Center, which issues recognized certificates to graduates in its neuro-developmental therapy method, is today run by Jennifer Bryce. In recent years Bobath instructors have introduced useful adaptations, including the use of various electronic devices to speed rehabilitation.

Capelovitch notes that nearly all Bobath therapists are women; training as a primary instructor takes as long as a decade, and the pay is relatively low. It also takes a great deal of patience that comes naturally to women. Instructors guide children how to move from one position to another, how to get dressed, and to eat.

Everyone can benefit to some extent, says Forsyth, depending on the amount of brain damage. Those with cognitive impairment will learn a lot less. Bobath training can continue through childhood and it can even benefit adults who suffered neurological damage due to a stroke, for example. Teenagers can learn skills they may have been unable to do as toddlers because their brain's frontal lobes are more developed in adolescence.

Bobath therapists encourage babies to move properly by presenting them with attractive toys. They gently hold down the stronger arm, forcing the child to use the weaker one. The toddler is supported on a hot-dog-shaped balloon, or leans against a cushioned table, freeing his limbs for easier movement. The legs are activated precisely when necessary. Forsyth notes that the amount of variation among CP children is enormous - there are no two with precisely the same disability.

As a typical case study, she describes a set of non-identical Canadian twin boys, both born with CP. She started treating them at six months, when they were unable to roll over or sit up; after three months of therapy, they were able to do both. At two-and-a-half, they were able to pull themselves up to stand. After six years of therapy, they were able to attend a regular elementary school. One went to university and learned business administration, while the other works in his father's business. "If they had received no treatment, they probably would have started walking only at age six or seven, and would never have been admitted to a regular school," she says. "Israel's two-year-old national health insurance system has not proved beneficial to CP patients, Capelovitch concludes. "It's harder now than before to obtain health-fund vouchers for therapy, so parents who can afford it are taking their children to private practitioners. It's a shame that who gets long-term help is decided by how much money one has. And those who get therapy are often told to stop it for several months, and the benefits recede."

Stopping leaks improves quality of life in oldsters

JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

FOR many old people, their last years are somewhat like their infancy: They're dependent on others (their children and caregivers rather than their parents), and they wear diapers.

Incontinence among the elderly is an unpleasant subject that the health system has preferred to disregard for many years. But finally, IDC-Israel had the foresight to organize the first-ever national conference on this subject, and many of the 450 participants were inspired by the lectures to start doing something about such patients in their community.

One out of four people over the age of 60 suffer from inadequate or total lack of control over their bladder and/or bowels. In old-age homes and geriatric hospitals, between 60% and 100% have this problem. The condition, caused by a wide variety of problems, is not only a source of great embarrassment, but it can also cause a severe reduction in quality of life and self-respect, and even be the justification for institutionalization in a geri-

atric facility. The cost of adult diapers and of unnecessary hospitalization is enormous, but it has not been formally calculated by the authorities. Awareness of the problem is growing abroad; in Britain, there is even an Incontinence Foundation to promote public understanding in the field.

"You're old, what do you expect?" is often the shrugging response of the family doctor when an elderly patient reluctantly tells him or her of an incontinence problem. But there is much that can be done, says Dr. Yoram Vardi, a urologist at Haifa's Rambam Hospital who helped establish a center for diagnosis, treatment, and counseling of the incontinent. The center, established by ESHEL (the Association for Planning and Development of Services for the Aged in Israel), is operated jointly by Rambam and the Fleimna geriatric hospital and provides a model for other centers interested in adopting it.

Vardi, director of Rambam's neuro-urology unit, says that two-thirds of the incontinent are women. Most have urine incontinence, but some patients suffer from bowel incontinence or both together.

"Women suffer more because of anatomical differences, but especially because the pelvic floor tends to weaken after numerous pregnancies and births, and because of the effect of menopause," he explains.

Incontinence can appear after men's surgery for prostate cancer, a stroke or multiple sclerosis in either sex, or a variety of other neurological and muscular illnesses. In addition, incontinence can result from taking a large number of conflicting medications. Yosefa Ben-Moshe, Eshel-IDC's health promotion director, adds that "many elderly consult with a large number of doctors, and they don't always report to them what drugs they are already taking. These drug conflicts cause a significant amount of incontinence."

Vardi says that various diuretics, cholinergic drugs and medications for psychiatric illnesses can cause functional incontinence; altering prescriptions can help reduce or eliminate the problem. "In addition, old people who have suffered bone fractures, or who otherwise spend much of their time in bed with restricted movements, can lose con-

trol of their bladder and bowels."

But frequently, the incontinence problem can be resolved merely by adapting the patient's habits and lifestyle. "You can change their clothing, so they're able to undress easily and get to the bathroom in time. You can have them sleep in a room that's closer to the toilet, or train them to eliminate at regular intervals so they don't fill up and have trouble controlling the sphincters," the urologist continues.

If worse comes to worst, patients who are physically able to withstand surgery can undergo an operation to stop the leakage. There is also a large variety of techniques, from biofeedback to Kegel (pelvic floor) exercises, to strengthen the muscles and restore bladder control. Fecal incontinence can be treated with surgery as well.

It has not been proven that women who do Kegel exercises (painless contraction of the sphincter at the bottom of the urinary tract) in their 30s or 40s can prevent incontinence in old age, but Vardi believes that it's definitely worth starting the routine, especially after giving birth. Ben-Moshe, who until five years ago

was in charge of the Health Ministry's health promotion unit, urges old people and their families to be assertive when dealing with doctors and the medical establishment. "If you're told: 'You're old, there's nothing we can do,' don't accept this statement. Ask the doctor to do his homework, to provide a specific diagnosis of the problem, to refer you to someone who can help." She notes that because families of patients hospitalized in geriatric institutions must pay for adult diapers, and not the health funds, there has been little incentive to reduce the use of these highly expensive products. Another reason for apathy is that geriatric services are not yet in the basket of health services that the insurers are obliged to cover.

Ben-Moshe says that since 95% of all old people live at home, and only 5% live out their lives in geriatric facilities, it is vital to get the message out to primary-care physicians as well as institutions. "It must become a routine part of counseling and examining patients," she stresses. "While the project is working well in the north, there is much to do in the rest of the country. The most important thing is get-

ting a diagnosis of the cause of the problem. Without that, you can't start a treatment and rehabilitation program."

Patients must not be embarrassed about the subject. They must give as much information as they can: What drugs they take, in what situation they leak urine or feces (sneezing, laughing or coughing, for example), their intake of liquids, how they dress, and if they suffer from a burning sensation during urination (a likely sign of infection). If they can't write down a complete list of the drugs they take, they should bring them all to the doctor to see if their interaction causes incontinence. Over-the-counter drugs should not be overlooked, as these too can be involved in the problem.

ESHEL-IDC has a wealth of written and audiovisual material on incontinence. A free booklet in Hebrew, English or Arabic can be obtained from the organization at POB 3489, Jerusalem 91034. In addition, a Hebrew-language audio tape on Kegel exercises can be ordered for NIS 15; a videocassette in Hebrew and English on urinary incontinence NIS 20; and a Hebrew-language film on fecal incontinence for NIS 20.

Push out splinters to avoid infection

If someone gets a splinter in a finger that he can't see from the outside, should he try to dig it out with a sterilized needle, or will it find its way out? F.B., Arod.

Dr. David Applebaum, medical director of the Terem Immediate Medical Care Clinics, replies:

The main criteria are whether the splinter causes pain, and how deep it is. If a splinter (this occurs in epidemic proportions before and after Succot, when people are building and dismantling their succa booths) or a tiny thorn doesn't cause much pain, and is not deep into the finger, you can probably leave it alone and the body will expel it within hours or days.

But in most cases, it really hurts. Try to pinch or squeeze the finger from the opposite side to push it out. This is a better method than using a sterilized needle. Frequently, untrained hands doing this procedure can cause problems. People who use a needle for this purpose may push it in too far, and it can also cause infections. The splinter could also be pushed in further. Instead, go to a first-aid clinic or see your doctor.

Rx FOR READERS
POST HEALTH REPORTER

What is the best way to get a little piece of dirt out of the eye - rubbing, crying, or is there another technique? A.R., Katrin.

Dr. Applebaum deals with this question 100: Gentle irrigation of the eye with lukewarm water is the best way to deal with this problem, not crying or rubbing. If it occurs at home, you can use ordinary tapwater, but distilled or cooled, boiled water is even better. Cup your hand under the eye and splash a lot of water into the eye to get the piece of dirt out. You can also fill a glass with water and hold it over the eye as you open and close the eyelid, but this is a bit messy. Workplaces, especially factories where chemicals or dirt can enter the eye, should always have saline solution and an eyecup for this procedure.

At our clinics, we always try to remove the irritant by irrigation. Only if it is embedded in

the cornea will we try to pull it out.

I am a 51-year-old woman, and tiny vertical ridges have begun to appear on my fingernails. Is this normal, a hint of aging or a sign of disease? T.C., Givatayim.

Prof. Sarah Bremner, head of the dermatology department of Ichilov Hospital and the editor of a handbook on nail diseases, comments: "This is a normal phenomenon that appears also in younger people. It will pass by itself, so there is no reason to worry, and you don't need any medication or treatment."

Rx For Readers welcomes queries from readers about medical problems. Experts will answer those we find most interesting, and replies will be printed in the twice-monthly column on the Health Page. Write Rx For Readers, The Jerusalem Post, POB 81, Jerusalem 91000, fax it to 02-5389527 or e-mail it to justie@jpost.co.il, giving your initials, age and place of residence. Phoned-in queries will not be accepted.

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Presidential homophobia

OPONENTS of the appointment of Ezer Weizman as the country's seventh president argued that the charming but irrepressible former fighter pilot could not be relied upon to hold his fire and maintain the dignified but often dull diplomatic silence demanded by presidential protocol. While Weizman has certainly served as the country's barometer, reflecting the shifts and feelings in public feeling with uncommon accuracy, his tendency at times to speak first and think later has proved right the critics of his appointment.

His attack against homosexuals and lesbians on Friday was as unwarranted as it was tasteless. In an address to high school students in Haifa, Weizman said that homosexuality repulsed him and that society should consider how it views such, in his view, sexual perversion. Seemingly egged on by the receptive and amused response of his student audience, Weizman said he could spot a homosexual from miles away and then gave into the temptation to provide his impersonation of homosexual speech-patterns.

The president prefaced his remarks with the statement that he was speaking as Ezer Weizman, an ordinary citizen, and not as the

country's president, but such a disclaimer is worthless. Weizman, already ensconced in the president's residence for three and a half years, knows that any statement or funeral eulogy he makes is that of the president of the state of Israel and not that of Ezer from Caesarea. If he were not the president, it is unlikely that the school students of Haifa would have been interested in listening to the views of someone of their grandparents' generation.

Homosexuality, although prohibited by Jewish law, is not illegal in Israel. For the president to damn a whole sector of the population because of their personal sexual preference is a shocking betrayal of the role entrusted to Weizman. There are no doubt many other sexual or other cultural habits held dear by different sectors of the Israeli public that Weizman would find repulsive, but he would not dream of publicly denouncing them.

Although the demonstration outside Beit Hanassi last night and various calls for his resignation will hardly change Weizman's long-held views on homosexuality, the president has to find it within himself to make a public apology for his unfortunate and unwise attack against the country's homosexuals.

Drop the delaying tactics

ONLY the most committed of optimists would predict a quick end this week to the interminably drawn-out negotiations for Israel's redeployment in Hebron. Although US peace envoy Dennis Ross arrived in the region this weekend with the express mandate of pushing the talks forward, little progress seems possible unless there is a sudden change of mind on the part of Palestinian Authority leader Yasser Arafat.

For some time now, Prime Minister Binjamin Netanyahu and other government ministers and officials have been insisting that were it not for Palestinian foot-dragging, the redeployment would have already taken place and the PA would have received control of this important and central Palestinian city. Unfortunately, due to the government's credibility problem - some of it deserved - these assertions were derided by the Palestinians and Israeli opposition alike, and the government's arguments went unheeded.

Now, following outgoing US Secretary of State Warren Christopher's remarks at the end of last week, and the reactions they inspired among the Palestinians, it is clear that the blame for the delay in the redeployment falls clearly on the PA's shoulders, and those of Arafat in particular. On Thursday, in a year-end foreign policy report, Christopher said of the Hebron negotiations: "The Israelis have made some

moves and it's time for the Palestinians to reciprocate." No diplomatic doublespeak here; the message to the Palestinians is unambiguous and pointed.

Following the ancient custom of blaming the messenger for the message, Arafat has been quick to respond to Christopher's call by casting aspersions on envoy Ross's neutrality. On Friday, Arafat said: "The most important thing is that Mr. Ross has to be an accurate mediator and not to be biased on the side of Israel." And, according to Labor MK Yossi Beilin, who met the PA leader Friday, Arafat has also demanded that Ross be replaced.

Given this type of welcome, it is unlikely that Ross is going to make much headway, even after the delivery this weekend of a personal letter to Arafat from President Bill Clinton. Fortunately, Ross is no novice to the Middle East and he will seek to salvage what he can of this trip, buoyed no doubt by the interview senior Netanyahu adviser David Bar-Ilan gave *The Jerusalem Post* on Friday. Bar-Ilan's remarks, in which he did not rule out a limited Palestinian state, are a clear sign that this government, contrary to the claims of its opponents both at home and abroad, is not looking to settle the Hebron issue, only then to stymie the peace process. If Arafat, too, is serious about making progress, he should drop the delaying tactics.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

IGNORE THE DEMONSTRATIONS

Sir, - The article "My way is great, yours stinks" by David Horik (December 9) confirms that our government and our people (including Mr. Horik) have not yet realized the true ambitions and accompanying dangers of the haredim, hassidim and any ultras. Their whole purpose is to estrange the secular, and in fact all other Jews of varying degrees of Orthodoxy who are likely to follow the fanaticism of fundamentalism. Unfortunately they have to wish (as our writer hopes) to "understand" or "lessen social rifts" between them and Palestinians, who would probably tolerate their medieval way of life, instead of having to contend with those of us who wish to

follow a Jewish life in our own way. This country means very little to them, except as the place to await the Messiah. The certainly don't risk their lives for our state which, problems and all, is our beloved homeland, historically and biblically. The extreme aggression being displayed now, and the demands being made since they have had the security of extra representation in our Knesset, show that these people - not the Palestinians - have the power to split our nation in their desire to take us all back to the Middle Ages.

Our government must concentrate much more on making a

peace we can all live with, instead of appeasing and giving strength to one section of the community. We, the public, and also the political parties, should ignore their demonstrations so they are wasted and not given importance. Mr. Netanyahu must stop placating the haredi parties; this is so different to Mr. Peres placating the Arabs - neither is the way to peace. History should have taught us that we are our own worst enemy; we must ensure that we do not cause our own destruction from within when all our enemies have failed.

EILEEN YOUNG

Netanya.

THE ADL

Sir, - Astonishingly, Abe Foxman, head of the "Anti-Defamation" League, invites one of the chief journalistic defamers of Israel as a keynote speaker - and then defames the ZOA's Mort Klein for criticizing his action! That Friedman is an inappropriate choice for an organization that proclaims itself Zionist to honor in this fashion is beyond question. Friedman's deceptiveness alone should disqualify him. There was no novelty to yet another Jewish basher of the Jewish State, so Friedman presented himself as an ardent admirer suddenly and drastically disillusioned by the Lebanon war. But as history professor Jerold S. Auerbach (among others) has pointed out,

Friedman's anti-Zionist credentials go back to his college days at Brandeis when he was a member of the steering committee of a self-styled Middle East Peace Group that attacked American Jews for protesting against Arafat's 1974 appearance at the UN General Assembly, pistol on hip, to declare Zionism was racism.

Friedman has been consistent ever since. Recently he spoke at an Arab propaganda conference in Washington filled with the usual array of hate-Israel activists from Edward Said on down. And, showing that he had already moved "beyond" the peace process, he wrote the introduction to Meron Benvenisti's new book, *Intimate Enemies*, that calls for Israel to

fulfill the next step in the PLO's plan by becoming a "binational state," i.e., giving up its Jewish identity.

Instead of admitting his bad judgment, Foxman turns with fury on the messenger. Foxman remains "proud" of his invitation to Friedman, but, spouting incredible vitriol, vows to drum Klein out of the organized Jewish community.

Under its previous head, Nathan Perlmutter, the ADL was one of the Jewish community's finest organizations. Under Foxman it has become a source of shame.

RAEL JEAN ISAAC

Irvington, New York.

EMBARRASSED

Sir, - I am a Bar Kohen - and, as such, was not only embarrassed, but also more than a little embarrassed by the recent behavior of MK Ra'anan Cohen, who made it his mission to prevent members of Habad from spreading Hanukka cheer at the Knesset. Obviously, he was afraid of some ineffable power that these sweet doughnuts

might have. It may interest MK Cohen to know that emissaries of Habad, like the ones he tried to keep out of the Knesset, their parliament, are welcome at the US Senate, seemingly without the fear that their nefarious activities will lead members astray.

I was on the Hill doing a bit of lobbying for Israel in the spring of '95, when, on the even of Purim, I was pleasantly surprised to see young Habadniks welcomed into the Senate Building carrying *nishioah manot* to US senators.

DR. JEANETTE DERSHOWITZ

Hetzliya.



The client is the enemy

DOV BURT LEVY

ONE out of every six people undergoing coronary bypass surgery suffers a stroke during or after surgery, according to a study in a recent issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*, the top American medical publication.

Over the past several days, the US media have been highlighting this finding. Up till now, however, doctors have tended to deny significant post-operative complications in bypass surgery.

Alas, my friend Marty and I have been vindicated.

Following my own bypass surgery in the US (for which I am grateful, and because of which I am alive today) my doctors denied my protestations of serious short-term memory loss resulting from a small stroke following surgery.

Marty's coronary bypass was done at Hadassah Hospital. Several weeks later, he visited his surgeon and said, "Look, I'm not going to sue you, and I'm not angry at you. But since the surgery I can't hear out of my left ear."

The surgeon's reply? "Impossible. I've done 5,000 bypasses and never had such a complaint."

The following week Marty had an appointment with the ear doctor at Hadassah. The first question he asked Marty was, "Have you had bypass surgery lately?"

Funny, if you feel like laughing. But there are larger questions, like: Why is denial the first defense of any institution charged with a shortcoming, large or small? And what are the consequences of such denial?

Here is a sample of cases:

• Tnuva charged with adding adulterants to its long-life milk. Denial.

• The General Security Service charged with killing two terrorists after they were disarmed, following the Bus 300 hijacking. Denial.

• American tobacco company executives charged with knowingly withholding evidence that smoking causes cancer. Denial.

• Intel charged with selling faulty Pentium chips. Denial.

• The American Defense Department charged with concealing data about chemicals used during the Gulf war. This led to grievous disabilities among thousands of US military personnel. Denial.

Swiss banks charged with concealing the magnitude of Holocaust victims' holdings held by the bank 50 years after the end of the war. Denial.

All the above denials were sooner or later overturned by factual data obtained by an independent panel, a whistle-blower from inside the organization, or by vigorous investigative journalism.

WHY THESE knee-jerk denials?

Why is denial the first defense of any institution charged with a shortcoming?

It is real people - and not an amorphous institution - who answer the charges leveled against the organizations. These individuals - mostly successful men with titles like CEO, company president, or, in Israel, director-general, take such charges very personally indeed. Their reputations and futures are at stake.

There are some variables. The longer the person is on the job, the more likely he is to stonewall charges (the Tnuva scandal).

Three years ago, IBM, its stock sales and profit falling, denied charges of bad product decisions and not listening to its customers. Then Lou Gerstner was hired as the new CEO.

Gerstner conscientiously listened. He didn't deny the most serious and toughest of allegations. He didn't countercharge the source of information. Today IBM is riding high in sales, profits and stock price.

Intel learned its lesson quickly on the Pentium fiasco and offered complete return privileges to its customers. It is highly unlikely to make that kind of mistake again.

Thirty years ago, American auto companies acted like omnipotent governments.

General Motors denied Ralph Nader's charges that the Corvair was unsafe at any speed and hired private investigators to bring Nader down. Instead, GM was brought down in Congress and

later with the buying public.

Another auto company denied that it had consciously saved a few dollars on gas tank construction in its cars, even though it knew the saving would result in a small number of unnecessary deaths. (Paying out death claims comes much cheaper than adding to the price of every car.) That denial, too, was a lie.

Public institutions often hide behind the "dirty linen" theory of organizational defense. We mustn't wash our dirty laundry in public, the reasoning goes. Trouble is, those same institutions are unlikely to do their washing in private, either.

It becomes an "us against them" mentality. The customer, the client, the public become the enemy.

Pretty dumb, really. Those CEOs and directors-general ought to know that every organization contains enough people to blow the whistle on wrongdoing, either publicly or through tips given to reporters or investigators.

It's particularly disturbing when the head of an institution denigrates people who offer constructive criticism. Two months ago, on these pages, a journalist told of his experience at Hadassah Hospital.

He was grateful for the hospital's good work in saving his life, but he deplored some procedures and attitudes that demeaned and made him and many patients angry and upset.

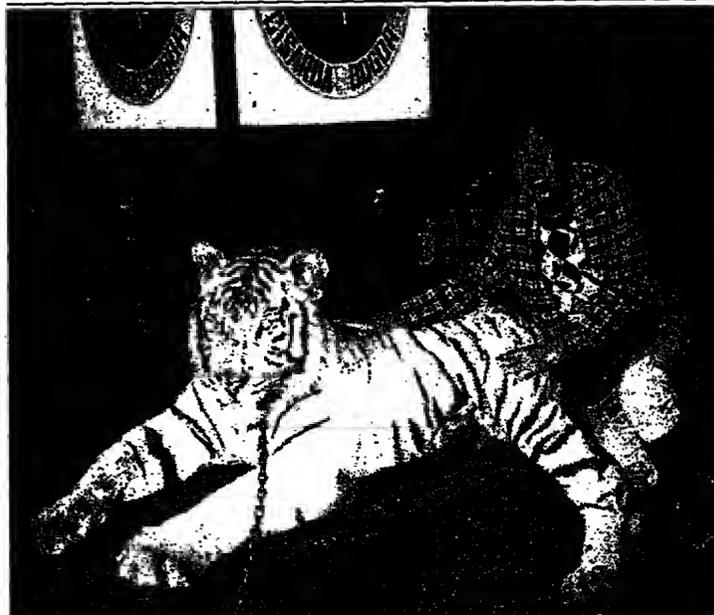
He wanted Hadassah improved. In a published letter the hospital head responded by insinuating that the critic hated the hospital and had therefore defamed its hardworking staff, but that he was forgiven - how magnanimous! - because he was a sick man. It's outrageous.

With denials like that, the hospital will surely not improve. And you know the funny thing? Most parents teach their children: "When you make a mistake, admit it. Fix it. Learn from it. Do better next time."

All of us, particularly those who occupy senior positions in corporate and governmental life, ought to remember that.

The author is a writer and former professor of political science.

PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



Ngai Fong Chee, 59, a Malaysian teacher, poses with a white tiger at a Jakarta safari park 10 days ago. Moments after the photo was taken, Chee slipped and the chained tiger pounced on her without warning, and killed her.

(Reuters)

Open sore

ABRAHAM RABINOVICH

FOLLOWING the Six Day War, 5,000 Arabs - mostly refugees from the 1948 war - were evacuated from Jerusalem's Jewish Quarter in order to permit its restoration and resettlement. Arabs were not permitted to purchase apartments there, even if they had owned property in the quarter before it was expropriated.

Most of the Jewish quarter had previously been owned by Arabs who rented their property to Jews until the quarter fell to the Arab Legion in the War of Independence. However, even Israeli liberals favored the exclusion of Arabs because they understood that a mixed Jewish-Arab neighborhood would, given the tensions in the city, be a formula for permanent friction.

Thus the argument offered this month by Deputy Housing Minister Meir Porush that the Jewish housing project proposed for the Arab neighborhood of Ras al-Amud is intended to promote coexistence between Jews and Arabs is not simply cynical but an insult to the intelligence.

Porush's own haredi community, which has repeatedly used violence to oust non-haredi elements from its midst, has made very clear its own attitude toward "coexistence."

Nor is Interior Minister Suissa any more convincing when he contends that the project deserves support because it will be beneficial to Arab residents of Ras al-Amud. Jewish-owned land there, he notes, would be dedicated for parks and other facilities serving the adjacent Arab neighborhood.

IF THE Arabs thought the project beneficial they would not be warning that its approval will ignite the Arab world.

The Arabs view the Ras al-Amud project, particularly in the

The Ras al-Amud project may well lead to bloodshed

atmosphere engendered by the present government, not as an attempt at coexistence but as Israel trying further to dilute the Arab presence in Jerusalem.

That coexistence is possible is demonstrated by the hundreds of Israeli Arabs who live peacefully in Jewish neighborhoods in west Jerusalem, but that is possible because those circumstances are not politically charged.

Since 1967, Israel has expropriated more than one-third of eastern Jerusalem for the construction of Jewish neighborhoods containing close to 200,000 residents. This was carried out as part of a geopolitical strategy aimed at ensuring Israeli control of the expanded city.

The Ras al-Amud project, a private initiative funded by a US supporter of far-right causes, serves no geopolitical strategy but one: making mischief. It would constitute an open sore, worsening Jewish-Arab relations and almost certainly leading to bloodshed. Those eager to derail the peace process hall it.

Netanyahu's demand that the Palestinians negotiate without recourse to violence carries with it an obligation that Israel likewise act with restraint during the peace process, that it not use its power and its laws to impose something on the Palestinians they cannot swallow. Reciprocity, which Netanyahu demands of the Palestinians, also means that we do not do to them what we would not permit them to do to us.

Instead of improving Israel's strategic position in Jerusalem, the insertion of a few score Jewish families into Ras al-Amud will remove any shreds of credibility the government may yet retain in the Arab world about its declared objective of achieving a "secure peace" and bring us a significant step closer to conflict.

To argue that the land at Ras al-Amud has been legally purchased from Arabs and the project duly approved by the planning authorities is to dodge the issue. It would also be legal for a left-wing extremist to purchase a tract in the heart of Rehavia and build apartments there for militant Palestinians wishing to make a point - but it is highly doubtful any Israeli government would permit that to happen.

To permit the Ras al-Amud project to proceed would be an act even more foolish than the opening of the Western Wall Tunnel exit, and much more dangerous.

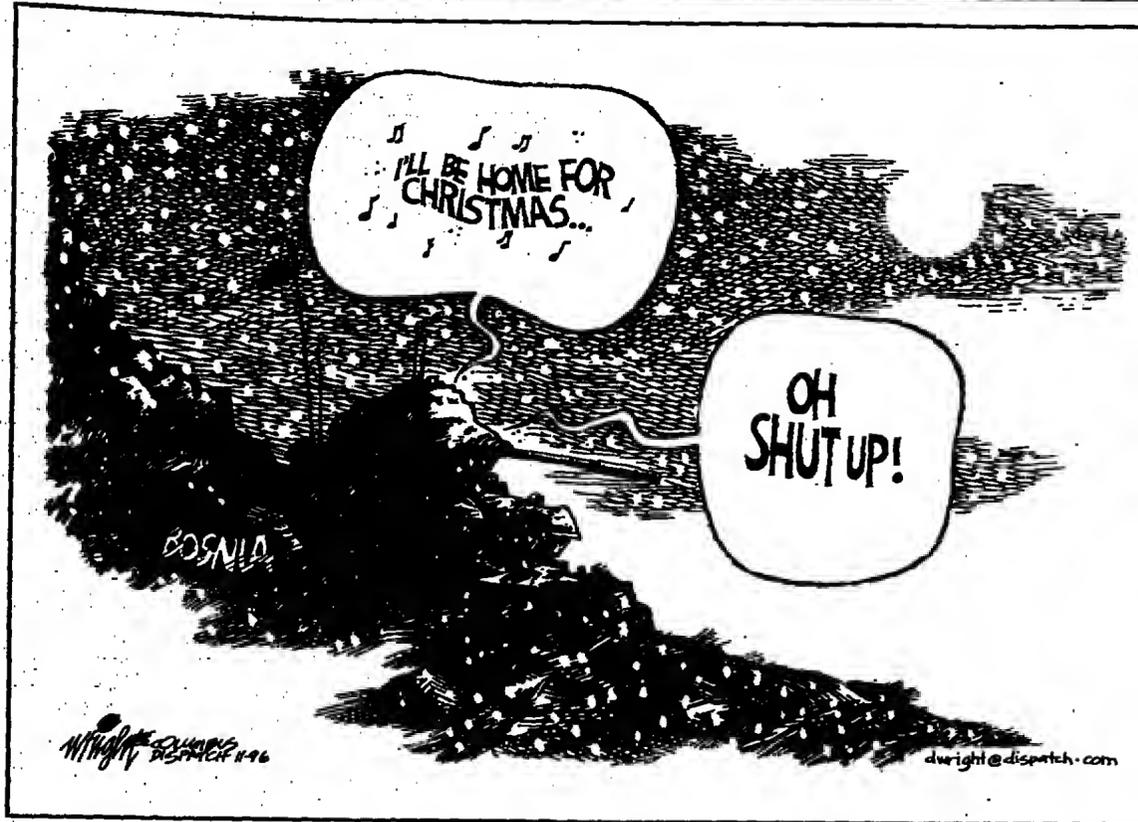
Netanyahu does not need to consult his security advisors to understand that.

The writer is a member of The Jerusalem Post editorial staff. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the paper.

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AMERICAN OUTLOOK

Sunday, December 22, 1996



Simpson trial headed for the 21st century?

By ALAN DERSHOWITZ

The Simpson civil trial may now be destined for an appellate reversal and a new trial, if O.J. Simpson is found liable. Judge Fujisaki appears to have crossed the line of judicial propriety and placed his heavy thumb on the plaintiffs' side of the scale of justice. He has made several important rulings that, in the view of many disinterested experts, are clear errors. Even he seems to have recognized his serious mistakes and has tried to rectify them by instructing the jury to ignore the 600-pound gorillas he set free in the courtroom.

The first of the gorillas was the claim that Simpson had taken and miserably failed a lie-detector test. At this point, we don't know whether or not that is even true, but the jury heard the allegation and has now been told to ignore it. Legal experts agree that it is a legal fiction — Professor Arthur Miller of Harvard University called it "a joke" — to believe that jurors can put such prejudicial information out of their minds. Lawyers love animal analogies: Instead of gorillas, some say that once a judge has allowed a skunk in the jury box, he may be able to remove the skunk, but he can never get rid of the smell.

The second gorilla or skunk was the double hearsay testimony of a woman who worked on a battered women's telephone hot line. She said that a woman named Nicole said that her unnamed husband said that he would kill her if he saw her with another man. First, it is pure speculation that the caller was Nicole Brown. There must be hundreds of "Nicoles" in the Los Angeles area, dozens of whom are married to "high-profile" men in that city of celebrities. It is certainly possible that the caller was Nicole Brown, though there is some question about the date of the call, the race of the husband and the accuracy and completeness of the notes. But when this testimony first came in, the jurors were led to believe that it could consider it as direct proof that O.J. Simpson had threatened to kill Nicole Brown if he found her with another man.

Because the plaintiffs' theory is that just a few days later, Simpson did, in fact, find Nicole Brown with Ron Goldman and did, in fact, murder them, it is hard to imagine more powerful and prejudicial evidence. But under California law, hearsay of this kind is not admissible to prove the truth of what the out-of-court declarant — in this case "Nicole" and her unnamed husband — may have said. In other words, neither the words of the woman nor the man — whoever they may be — may be believed by the jury.

Judge Fujisaki appears to have crossed the line of judicial propriety and placed his heavy thumb on the plaintiffs' side of the scale of justice. He has made several important rulings that, in the view of many disinterested experts, are clear errors.

The judge eventually realized his mistake, but it was too late. He told the jury — after a day had passed — that they may consider this explosive testimony not for its "truth" but only as it bears on Nicole Brown's state of mind, if the caller was indeed Nicole Brown. How a jury can consider this evidence as bearing on state of mind without considering its truth was not explained. Nor is there any assurance that the jury will forget that a man who may have been O.J. Simpson may have threatened to do precisely what the plaintiffs claim O.J. Simpson did do.

Civil verdicts are not usually reversed on appeal on the basis of isolated errors regarding evidentiary rulings. Trial judges are given considerably more latitude in civil than in criminal cases. But civil verdicts are reversed if the appellate court concludes that the errors were so prejudicial that they distorted the fact-finding process. The errors made by Judge Fujisaki in this case carry the real potential for doing this, because they are — if credited — tantamount to admissions of culpability. Appellate courts also reverse verdicts if they believe that the trial judge's rulings consistently favored one side over the other. Some commentators have argued that despite appearances, Judge Fujisaki is not really favoring the plaintiffs; instead he is allowing questionable evidence to come in on both sides. But he has severely restricted the defendants in what they may present to the jury regarding police misconduct and Detective Fuhrman's perjury.

Many commentators were critical of Judge Ito at the criminal trial because he took so long in deciding evidentiary issues. Judge Fujisaki may have gone to the opposite extreme. He seems to rush into making rulings, only to have to pull back from them after hearing the criticism from the media.

It is in everybody's interest for this trial to be error-free. Nobody wants yet another Simpson trial. But unless Judge Fujisaki becomes more careful in making important evidentiary rulings, he may be laying the foundation for a successful appeal. At this rate, the trial of the 20th century may well not end until the 21st century.

Alan M. Dershowitz is a professor of law at Harvard University. His newest book is *Reasonable Doubts* (Simon & Schuster).

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Revolution of '96

Cutting Consumer Price Index raises questions

By JONATHAN CHAIT

For years, U.S. congressional deficit hawks have searched in vain for a politically palatable way to cut Social Security. Their white knight has finally galloped in: Michael Boskin, who heads a congressional advisory commission that last month recommended a combined benefits cut and tax increase through a technical adjustment that the geezers back home won't notice.

The commission's fix is a cut in the Consumer Price Index, the official inflation gauge. To prevent inflation from raising taxes or cutting spending, the government ties its tax brackets and benefit checks to the CPI. But Boskin claims the CPI overstates inflation by about 1.1 percent — in other words, Uncle Sam has been giving taxpayers and Social Security recipients a sweetheart deal. If Congress adopts Boskin's counsel, it could mean billions in easy deficit reduction. Shaving 1.1 percent off the CPI would save a trillion dollars in a dozen years — and move us three-quarters of the way toward solving Social Security's looming deficit.

The political beauty of the CPI adjustment is its invisibility. If we lower the CPI by 1.1 percent, then Social Security recipients would get 1.1 percent less next year than they would otherwise. That's not enough to make anybody dash off furious letters to their congressman, but it adds up. Twenty years from now, a Social Security check would be worth 25 percent less — but who's going to remember a 20-year-old vote to adjust a statistic? For political purposes, the decrease would not exist.

Exactly this sort of solution is what the Boskin Commission was designed to produce. Instead, curiously, the report has set up a game of chicken. Republicans, burned on Medicare, insist that President Clinton endorse a CPI revision before they do. Thus far, the president has kept mum. And on the Republican side, even among the politics-be-damned, balanced-budget-loving 1995 freshman class, heroism seems suddenly in short supply.

Why are politicians so coy about embracing such an apparently elegant and painless solution to the most vexing of issues? The answer begins with the fact that nobody is really sure Boskin is right. Newspaper accounts treated the commission's findings as received wisdom. But 1.1 percent was a guess; the report actually suggested the CPI's bias lay somewhere between 0.8 percent and 1.6 percent. Everyone agrees on the causes of

the CPI's overstatement: It can't tell the difference between a better mousetrap and one that just costs more, and when consumer goods do get pricier, the CPI doesn't account for shoppers switching to discount alternatives.

If economists could agree on how much these factors artificially pump up the official inflation statistics, those errors wouldn't be there in the first place. Most estimates suggest the bias is closer to half a percent, but some economists think it's closer to 2 percent. That range may look tiny, but in relative fact it is huge. The CPI ran at 2.9 percent last year, so a 1.1 percent bias would mean inflation is more than one-third slower than the government thinks.

The political beauty of the CPI adjustment is its invisibility. If we lower the CPI by 1.1 percent, then Social Security recipients would get 1.1 percent less next year than they would otherwise. That's not enough to make anybody dash off furious letters to their congressman, but it adds up. Twenty years from now, a Social Security check would be worth 25 percent less — but who's going to remember a 20-year-old vote to adjust a statistic?

The ramifications reach far beyond the budget. Economic growth counts how much more goods and services we produced this year than last. If everybody just jacked up the price for the same stuff, the economy hasn't really grown. That's why the CPI factors into economic growth. If the CPI has been overstating inflation by 1.1 percent, then the economy has grown 1.1 percent faster than we thought.

The implications of officially accepting this idea are many and mind-boggling. Rewriting the rate of inflation for the past 30 years means

rewriting history. It means that the idea that we live in an economy that no longer offers most people a better life tomorrow than today and a better life today than yesterday — an idea that for years has informed just about everything you have read in the newspapers and heard on the evening news — why, it's all wrong.

Remember the middle-class squeeze and corresponding voter discontent that ended George Bush's career in 1992 and spawned the Buchanan Brigades in 1996? Forget it. If you recalculate with a lower inflation rate, economic growth has been just dandy. And remember the "Clinton Crunch"? That was the epithet coined by the Dole campaign to describe the Clinton administration's 2.4 percent rate of economic growth. Dole promised his tax cut would boost growth to a spectacular 3.5 percent. But Boskin's adjustment of the CPI would mean that the economy under Clinton actually has grown by 3.5 percent.

Given ramifications of this magnitude, it is not surprising that, so far at least, many economists who favor tax cuts have been driven to distraction and hypocrisy by the very thought of the Boskin adjustment.

A similar ambivalence afflicts certain liberal economists. Consider Lester Thurow, who last spring bemoaned falling wages in an essay for *The American Prospect*. His culprit was the Federal Reserve, which, he argued, has strangled economic growth out of a misplaced obsession with inflation. Why misplaced? Because inflation, he argued, is overstated by almost three percentage points. But of course if that's true, then wages haven't fallen, they've skyrocketed. If one half of his argument is right, then the other half can't be.

Finally, consider one more corollary of the Boskin thesis. If the economy is really growing at 3.5 percent, then the argument for deficit reduction is much weaker. If we've been underestimating our economic growth, then borrowing from future generations no longer looks so greedy.

All of which leaves this generation of politicians in a quandary. Nearly all of them base their economic worldview on one or both of the following propositions: (1) Living standards are stagnating, and (2) We as a society are speeding our children's inheritance. If Boskin's commission is right, then we must abandon both these tried-and-true truisms.

Jonathan Chait is a staff writer at *The New Republic*, in which this article first appeared.

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NFL individual leaders

Table with columns for player name, team, and statistics for various NFL categories like AFC, NFC, and individual player stats.

Table titled 'Team statistics' showing various metrics for different NFL teams.

Table titled 'NFL standings' showing win-loss records for teams in the American and National Conferences.

Table titled 'This week's schedule' listing upcoming NFL games and their times.

Table titled 'Indianapolis Colts on verge of another playoff appearance' with related statistics.

Table titled 'Patriots down Giants, earn 1st-round bye' with game statistics.

Table titled 'All Blacks find their holy grail in rugby '96' with match details.

Forest profits from Wright indiscipline

LONDON (Reuters) - Norwegian Alf-Inge Haaland turned the Premier League upside down yesterday as struggling Nottingham Forest gratefully accepted a seasonal gift from Arsenal's Ian Wright.



TAKES THE FALL - West Ham's John Moncur (right) gets tripped by Chelsea's Eddie Newton.

Under the temporary command of England defender Stuart Pearce following the resignation of manager Frank Clark this week, bottom-placed Forest seemed to be heading for another defeat when Wright put Arsenal 1-0 ahead in the 64th minute.

But Haaland put Forest back on level terms within three minutes and, with Wright dismissed for violent conduct, swept in a second goal in the 89th minute to secure a 2-1 win which prevented the Londoners from returning to the top of the table.

Wright received his marching orders after an off-the-ball incident involving Croat Nicola Jerkan, his notoriously fiery temper having already surfaced in the first-half when he barged his teammate Paul Merson in disgust after an attack broke down.

Peace hastened Wright on his way to the dressing-room with a few sharp words, but was grateful to the Arsenal striker for giving Forest, without a league win since the first day of the season, a boost ahead of their tough Christmas program.

Other than with a header and United is now in fourth position, four points behind Arsenal and six behind Liverpool.

The result also justified manager Alex Ferguson's decision to leave England midfielder David Beckham on the bench to protect him from "burn-out" over the hectic festive period.

The only other member of the Division One: Crystal Palace 1, Charlton 0, Grimsby 1, Bradford 1, Huddersfield 1, Queens Park Rangers 2, Ipswich 1, Stoke 1, Oldham 2, Manchester City 1, Port Vale 6, Norwich 1, Reading 0, Portsmouth 0, Sheffield United 0, Barnsley 1, Tranmere 0, Wolves 2, West Bromwich Albion 3, Oxford 3.

Division Two: Crystal Palace 3, York 0, Brentford 0, Preston 0, Bristol Rovers 3, Wycombe 4, Bury 0, Stockport 0, Chesterfield 1, Bournemouth 1, Rotherham 1, Plymouth 2, Watford 0, Gillingham 0, Wrexham 2, Bristol City 1.

superb individual goal to add to a double from Welsh striker Mark Hughes, shaking Chelsea out of its recent slump and keeping the team on the fringe of the title race in eighth place.

Tottenham's Danish signing Alan Nielsen added to the day's continental flavor with his side's goal in the 1-1 draw with Sheffield Wednesday and only Southampton and Coventry could claim home-grown talent tipped the scales.

Coventry won 2-0 at Leicester to move out of the bottom three with two goals from Dion Dublin and Southampton did likewise with a 3-1 success against Derby.

They are replaced in the drop-zone by Middlesbrough and Blackburn, whose match was postponed because of illness in the Middlesbrough camp.

The only goalless game of the day was at Goodison Park where Leeds was involved in its third successive stalemate but extended its unbeaten league run under George Graham to five matches.

Table titled 'SCORING LEADERS' listing top scorers in the Premier League and other divisions.

Table titled 'DIVISION ONE' listing league positions and statistics for various teams.

Table titled 'DIVISION TWO' listing league positions and statistics for various teams.

Table titled 'DIVISION THREE' listing league positions and statistics for various teams.

Table titled 'SCOTLAND PREMIER' listing league positions and statistics for various teams.

Indianapolis Colts on verge of another playoff appearance

CINCINNATI (AP) - A year after they came up one pass short of the Super Bowl, the Indianapolis Colts have another chance to make a run at it.

The Colts can reach the playoffs for a second consecutive season - an accomplishment by itself - by merely extending their dominance in Cincinnati today.

A victory over the resurgent Bengals would provide the Colts' first 10-victory season since 1977 and home-field advantage for the first wild-card game.

After losing the AFC championship game in Pittsburgh when a desperation pass fell incomplete in the end zone on the final play, the Colts (9-6) are aching for the first playoff game. A loss today would put the Colts on the road.

LAST NIGHT'S GAMES: New England 23, New York Giants 22; New Orleans at St. Louis.

TODAY: Arizona at Philadelphia; Atlanta at Jacksonville; Chicago at Tampa Bay; Houston at Baltimore; Indianapolis at Cincinnati; Kansas City at Buffalo; Miami at New York Jets; Minnesota at Green Bay; Pittsburgh at Carolina; St. Louis at Dallas; Washington at Oakland; Denver at San Diego.

TOMORROW: Detroit at San Francisco (end of regular season).

It's also significant for the Bengals, who were eliminated from contention last week by the Colts' victory in Kansas City. Even though the Bengals had virtually no chance to qualify for post-season anyway, they like the idea of spoiling things for somebody else.

That's something I want to do if I could. I want to knock them out," said cornerback Ashley Ambrose, who was a star in the Colts' playoff games last season. "I don't want them to go. They got us, so it's a revenge thing - get them back."

presided over nine wins in 10 Tests played over just 13 weeks. In 1997, by way of relaxation, the All Blacks are scheduled to play eight Tests in just 11 weeks as professionalism tightens its grip still further.

In any other circumstances, South Africa's unbeaten end-of-year sequence of six Tests, including two in France and a splendid 37-20 victory over Wales last weekend, would have been treated with respect bordering on awe at their stamina and competitiveness.

So too would Australia's unbeaten European tour, overshadowed by the prolonged farewell of world record try-scorer David Campese who became only the second man to pass 100 Test caps.

There was precious little else which could be described as romantic in British rugby, except perhaps the arranged marriages between expensive overseas names and newly-rich English clubs.

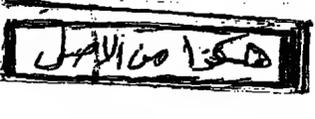
Francis Pienaar, Michael Lynagh and Philippe Sella all signed for previously unheralded London club Saracens, well-known for its hospitality but not always their playing strength. It offered some welcome relief from the interminable power struggle between English clubs and the Rugby Football Union.

Back on the field, France tasted success in a distinctly non-vintage Five Nations' championship and Toulouse won the inaugural European Cup tournament, the northern hemisphere equivalent of the magnificent Super 12 provincial competition which captured public imagination on the other side of the world.

There was even the sight of Wigan's formidable rugby league side facing English champions Bath in two challenge matches which prompted some officials to predict a merger between the codes within five years. It would overturn more than a century of history, but little in rugby is sacred any more.

Winger Jeff Wilson assumed the try-scoring mantle, full-back Christian Cullen dazzled everyone in his first year of Test rugby and forwards Zinzan Brooke and Michael Jones confirmed their status alongside Fitzpatrick as genuine All Black legends.

It also spoke volumes for the skill of new coach John Hart, who



SUNDAY COMICS

Doonesbury

G. B. TRUDEAU

YOU KNOW, EVERYBODY I STAYED UP TONIGHT TO GET THE COINTEGRATED NEWS AGAIN, BECAUSE I'M ALWAYS INTO THE NEW THINGS.

WELL, I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT.

PEANUTS

by SHARPE

I'M READY.

NO NATIONAL ANTHEM?

NO HOKEY-POKEY?

YOU'RE KIDDING! BEFORE EVERY GAME?

THE "MACARENA"!

Steve

By JEFF KANEV

SO WHAT'S OUR PROBLEM WITH THIS YEAR, ARE WE?

IT'S A SIMPLE THING, REALLY.

IT SEEMS TO BE ON EVERYONE'S LIST AGAIN, SO I THOUGHT I'D GIVE IT A TRY.

OF COURSE. NO ONE KNOWS HOW TO TAKE CARE OF IT.

PEACE ON EARTH?

Calvin and Hobbes

by WATSON

SHOULD I OR SHOULDN'T I?

WAP!

DID YOU THINK A SNOWBALL AT ME?

MEET A SNOWBALL? DID SOMEONE THROW A SNOWBALL AT YOU?

OH, DON'T RUN THROUGH WITH ME, YOU LIAR! I KNOW YOU THREW THAT!

OH, HE A LIAR, WILL YOU? WELL, IT TAKES ONE TO KNOW ONE. NO, TAPPOCA HEAD!

COULD AN INSULT I'VE BEEN LAUGHED AT, I'LL NEVER SPEAK TO YOU AGAIN, YOU KID!

OH, YEAH? THERESA BITTLE!

YEAH! THERESA BITTLE!

WHOPP! THERESA BITTLE!

THIS IS YOUR AGGLE AGGLE AGGLE!

OH, YEAH? THIS IS YOUR AGGLE AGGLE AGGLE!

WELL, YOU GO LIKE THIS: PUMPHUMPHUM! DWH! BUBBLE!

CALVIN, TIME TO COME IN!

LEAVE IT TO ME TO INTERRUPT OUR REPAIRS.

JUST WHEN I'ND YOU WERE GOING IN THE OTHER DIRECTION OF REPAIR TOO...

WHO IS JESUS, DAD?

HE'S THE REASON FOR THE SEASON.

I THOUGHT SANTA WAS THE REASON.

HE IS IF YOU PREFER NINTENDO TO EVERLASTING LIFE.

I WONDER WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE TO HAVE A BABY.

...A LITTLE BOY...

OH... HE'D HAVE HIS SHARE OF CUTS AND BRUISES, OF COURSE...

AS WELL AS GRIEF AND SCORCHING AND BURNING AND DISEASES.

BUT HE'D BE ALIVE!

TO EXPERIENCE THE JOY OF CREATION.

WHY HE COULD GROW UP TO BE FAMOUS!

... BECOME A PHYSICIAN—A GREAT HEALER...

OR A PEAKMAKER... OR EVEN A KING!

KING OF KINGS!

HE MIGHT EVEN SAVE MANKIND!

WHAT FROM?

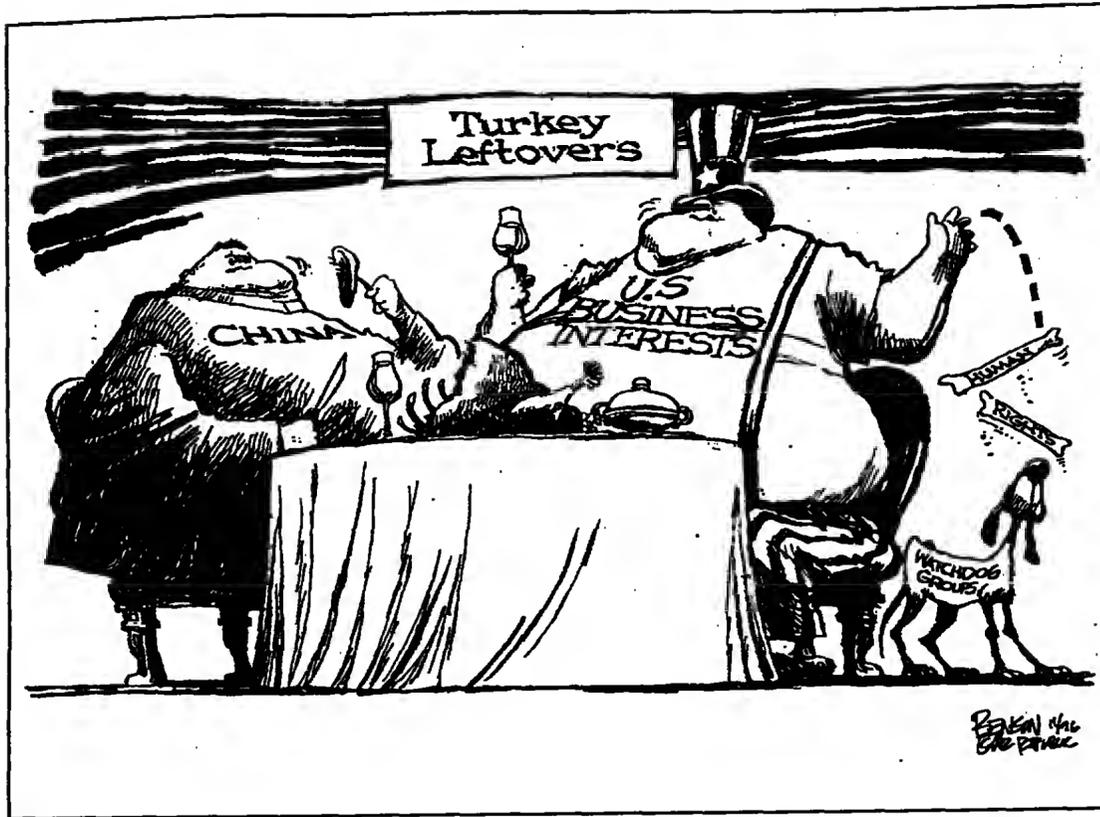
WELL, FROM...

WOW, LOOK AT THAT STAR!

IT'S SHOWTIME!

TODAY'S SUNDAY PUZZLE

- ACROSS**
- 1 Llama's relative
 - 11 Warsaw natives
 - 16 Bowling score
 - 21 Inrequently
 - 22 Awful settlement
 - 23 Punting problem
 - 24 Desert animal
 - 25 Singer Easton
 - 26 Foot part
 - 27 Term
 - 28 Sky blue
 - 29 Algerian port
 - 30 Young child
 - 32 Punting problem
 - 34 Hunt or faddy
 - 36 Pouch
 - 37 Johnny
 - 38 Deer — or Modern
 - 39 Strip
 - 40 Clerk's home
 - 41 Depression
 - 42 Contract
 - 44 Mat Gibson epic
 - 47 Singer Peggy
 - 49 — my lips!
 - 51 Bullfight cheer
 - 52 Bigger
 - 54 Nigerian city
 - 58 —
 - 60 Of the mouth
 - 62 Annoying
 - 63 Shellfish
 - 65 Fisher's dist
 - 66 General bird
 - 67 Actress Davis
 - 68 Scummed
 - 69 Rhythmic
 - 71 Green gemstone
 - 72 Go to bed
 - 74 — Hamanahold
 - 75 Tomorrow, in
 - 76 — Banora
 - 78 Swamp
 - 79 Plograd
 - 79 Man or boy
 - 80 Guard
- DOWN**
- 1 Classy
 - 2 Newscaster Jim
 - 3 Courtroom
 - 4 Yemeni port
 - 5 Swindle
 - 6 Famed violin maker
 - 7 Baroque rod
 - 8 Female bird
 - 9 District district
 - 10 Side
 - 11 Select
 - 12 Gold, in Barcelona
 - 13 Sluggishness
 - 14 International
 - 15 Zoo favorite
 - 16 Scullion
 - 17 La — Sofia
 - 18 Entertain
 - 19 Showed again
 - 20 Voss into office
 - 21 Sphere
 - 22 Badger look-alike
 - 23 Sharklike fish
 - 24 Ocean
 - 25 Auditorium
 - 26 Ceylon, a. g.
 - 27 Distributed (cards)
 - 28 — Mirna
 - 29 Horse color
 - 30 Bride seat
 - 31 Cheer up
 - 32 Dorsal
 - 33 Spicy crust
 - 34 Sharklike fish
 - 35 Ocean
 - 36 Auditorium
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 - 77 Spicy crust
 - 78 Sharklike fish
 - 79 Ocean
 - 80 Auditorium



Charter schools enjoy autonomy without public accountability

BY MICHAEL KELLY

On Aug. 13, 1996, the Board of Education in Washington voted unanimously to approve an application from Mary A.T. Anigbo to open the Marcus Garvey Public Charter School. A charter school is an oxymoron, a private school funded with public money — in the case of the Garvey school, District residents pay \$4,000 to \$6,000 per student. This year, its first in operation, the Garvey school has 62 students and will receive up to \$372,000 of the taxpayers' money.

The board's decision to establish the Garvey school was remarkable in that the board seemed not to have the slightest idea what it was establishing. Anigbo, a self-described "clinician, psycho-education, consultant" proposed, vaguely, to create an Afrocentric school that would require students to wear military-style fatigues and would offer instruction in such matters as "Cultural Family Retardation" and "The Destruction of Black Civilization." The board noted that it did not know what this description of the curriculum actually meant, but it granted its blessing anyway. Let a hundred flowers bloom.

On Dec. 3, the board members found out what kind of place they had established. On that day, a reporter for *The Washington Times*, Susan Ferrechio, went to the Garvey school for a story on its progress. While waiting for Anigbo, Ferrechio briefly interviewed a student. A school secretary demanded that Ferrechio show her the notepad. She refused. Mary Anigbo, accompanied by four young males, apparently students, attempted to wrest the notepad from the reporter's hands. Ferrechio resisted. A group that included the secretary and seven to eight students attacked Ferrechio, pushing and pulling at her. The assailants hit and kicked the reporter repeatedly. The principal grabbed the notepad and, with the rest of the mob, began pushing Ferrechio out of the school. They yelled racial taunts at her, including warnings to get her "white ass out of this school." At the door, the mob picked Ferrechio up and pushed her out.

Within two hours, Ferrechio returned to the school with two police officers, a black *Times* reporter named Barrington Salmon and a white *Times* photographer named Cliff Owen. Inside, Owen began taking pictures of the secretary. Principal Anigbo and other adults attacked the photographer. When the police attempted to intervene, the attackers (including Anigbo's nephew, Calvin L. Gatlin, a security guard at the school) scuffled with police. Again, Ferrechio and Owen were subjected to racial taunts.

This account is based on the assertions of

Ferrechio, Owen, Salmon and the police officers, as reported in *The Washington Times* and elsewhere. Anigbo has offered a disputing account. She claims that Ferrechio stole a notepad off a counter and refused to return it, that Ferrechio hit Anigbo in the chest and grabbed her arm, that Anigbo's students naturally tried to defend her, that Ferrechio shouted racial insults at the students, telling them that she was going to "get you black people out of that building," that Ferrechio threatened the students with a knife and a can of mace. But Anigbo's account was unbelievable on its face, and was made more so by revelations this week that (1) Anigbo was, in 1986, charged with assault with a deadly weapon and carrying a deadly weapon after she attacked two female process servers with a knife (slashing one) and a small log; and (2) Anigbo's nephew, Garvey security guard Gatlin, was convicted in 1978 of armed robbery and assault with a deadly weapon (a gun), in 1984 of armed robbery, in 1989 of possession of cocaine and in 1995 of

Conservatives like charter schools because they think the schools' autonomy will allow the teaching once again of conservative virtues — old-fashioned education, discipline, religious instruction. The race-and-gender left likes charter schools because autonomy will allow the teaching of its values: Afrocentric schools for blacks and feminist schools for girls and so on.

attempted unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.

After this incident, several predictable things happened. The national media showed little interest in the story. *The Washington Post* has played the story mostly inside, made no real effort to ascertain the truth of what happened, and generally treated the disputing accounts of what happened as morally and logically equal.

Also predictably, black political racialists have rallied behind Anigbo, blaming the whole thing on "white people."

What has not happened so far in the Garvey school affair is what most obviously

should happen. There has not been much of a hue or cry against the whole idea of charter schools. This is odd, because the Garvey school affair demonstrates everything that has always been wrong with the idea. Charter schools, and similar ideas like the use of vouchers to pay for tuition in private schools, enjoy support from the right and the left for essentially the same reason. Conservatives like charter schools because they think the schools' autonomy will allow the teaching once again of conservative virtues — old-fashioned education, discipline, religious instruction. The race-and-gender left likes charter schools because autonomy will allow the teaching of its values: Afrocentric schools for blacks and feminist schools for girls and so on.

And this bi-ideological popularity is, as the Garvey case shows, exactly why such things as charter schools and school voucher programs cannot in the end succeed. A pluralistic society cannot sustain a scheme in which the citizenry pays for a school but has no influence over how the school is run. Public money is shared money, and it is to be used for the furtherance of shared values, in the interest of *e pluribus unum*. Charter schools and their like are definitionally antithetical to this American promise. They take from the pluribus to destroy the unum. If you say that the taxpayers should support the Little Sisters of the Poor to run their private school as they see fit, without any real oversight by the elected representatives of the taxpayers, you must also say that we should pay for Mary A.T. Anigbo to run a place where black children learn that white people are their enemies, and act accordingly.

Michael Kelly is the editor of *The New Republic*, in which this article first appeared.

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Greenspan unaware comments would cause market mayhem

BY ROBERT NOVAK

Such is the infallibility conferred on the current chairman of the Federal Reserve Board that the consensus in informed Washington circles is that Alan Greenspan knew exactly what he was doing when he roiled global capital markets. But Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott was closer to the truth, saying, "I would be almost willing to bet that he wishes now that he had not used the words that he did."

Lott is correct that Greenspan never intended a volcanic effect when two weeks ago he talked about "irrational exuberance" in the markets. When he and his closest allies on the Board of Governors reviewed his prepared speech days earlier, they had no inkling of the havoc it would wreak. The central bankers were enormously relieved that their gaffe seemed to do little damage (save for those nervous investors who panicked the morning of Friday, Dec. 6), though the market plunged again Wednesday, Dec. 11.

Nevertheless, the incident suggests Greenspan and his colleagues are scarcely infallible but are subject to human error while free from restraints imposed on vastly less powerful governmental agencies. Most distressing, the chairman tarnished his reputation as a champion of free markets and encouraged concerns that he puts a low priority on economic growth.

The Fed's legendary duty is to take away the punch bowl just when the party gets going good. But no central bank anywhere targets a stock-market index, and nothing in the Federal Reserve's statutory instructions would justify that practice. Certainly, a market "bubble" — inflated values sure to be punctured — would be cause for alarm. But all hands at the Fed agree there is no bubble or imminent danger of one.

So why did Greenspan use his speech at the American Enterprise Institute's black-tie dinner to comment on the stock market? Not to signal a precedent-shattering interest-rate hike to discourage securities investment. His remarks could stem from the current Fed's alleged responsibility for today's just-right "Goldilocks" economy. That success may have bred overconfidence in the habitually cautious Greenspan while simultaneously boring him. With no apparent need either to tighten or loosen money, these are not exciting days at the Fed. A few words of warning from Greenspan would break the boredom and do no harm, while ensuring the chairman's reputation if the stock market eventually crashes.

But they did do harm; in ways not imagined by Fed governors who read Greenspan's draft nor appreciated by the AEI diners (benumbed by the chairman's monotone oratory). American financial markets are so indispensable worldwide that suggestions of a withdrawn punch bowl provoked panic selling from Tokyo to Frankfurt. That unpleasant surprise could have been quickly remedied in two ways: by the Fed injecting bank reserves to show no intent to tighten, or by Greenspan begging off in a speech scheduled that Friday before the Philadelphia Union League. But either course would violate the mystique that being a central banker is never having to say you were wrong. So Greenspan relied on the market to right itself.

What did bother Greenspan was Lott's criticism in two week-end television programs, especially his questioning the central bank's "degree of independence." While impervious to the chaos he had caused investors worldwide, Greenspan later telephoned the majority leader to calm those waters. Lott worries that Greenspan is insufficiently interested in economic growth. Indeed, fear of an "exuberant" stock market encourages President Clinton's advisers, who dogmatically oppose a lowered capital-gains tax rate.

On CNN's "Late Edition" Sunday, Dec. 8, Budget Director Frank Raines based his opposition on his misunderstanding that such reductions are called for "to bolster the stock market or to increase investment by corporations" but are unnecessary because "stock market [sic] and investment by corporations are at very high levels." Raines, who made millions as an investment banker and an executive at the Federal National Mortgage Association, apparently has no idea how capital-gains taxation shackles entrepreneurial America.

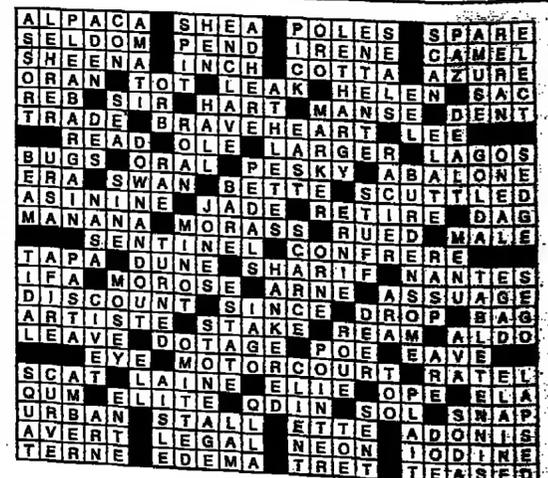
Greenspan, who always has advocated a zero capital-gains tax, now becomes bracketed with Raines. The chairman's comments, supply-side consultant Jude Wanniski told clients Monday, Dec. 9, "is direct evidence we have all been unduly exuberant in our assessment of Greenspan." When the chief guardian of the dollar calls markets irrational, investors around the world understandably panic.

Robert Novak is a syndicated columnist of the *Chicago Sun-Times*.

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AMERICAN OUTLOOK

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SYNDICATE



SPORTS

8

NFL individual leaders

Table with columns for AFC and NFC players, listing statistics such as Att, Com, Yds, TD, Int, Rush, Rec, and Pass.

SCORING

Table showing scoring statistics for various NFL teams, including Touchdowns, Rush, Rec, and FG.

Team statistics

Table with columns for AFC and NFC teams, listing statistics such as Yards, Rush, Pass, and Points.

NFL standings

Table showing NFL standings for the American and National Conferences, including win-loss records and playoff status.

This week's schedule

Table listing NFL games for the week, including last night's games and tomorrow's games.

Forest profits from Wright indiscip

LONDON (Reuters) - Norwegian Alf-Inge Haaland turned the Premier League upside down yesterday as struggling Nottingham Forest gratefully accepted a seasonal gift from Arsenal's Ian Wright.



TAKES THE FALL - West Ham's John Moncur (right) gets tripped by Chelsea's Eddie Newton.

Under the temporary command of England defender Stuart Pearce following the resignation of manager Frank Clark this week, bottom-placed Forest seemed to be heading for another defeat when Wright put Arsenal 1-0 ahead in the 64th minute.

But Haaland put Forest back on level terms within three minutes and, with Wright dismissed for violent conduct, swept in a second goal in the 89th minute to secure a 2-1 win which prevented the Londoners from returning to the top of the table.

Wright received his marching orders after an off-the-ball incident involving Croat Nicola Jerkan, his notoriously fiery temper having already surfaced in the first-half when he barged his teammate Paul Merson in disgust after an attack broke down.

Pearce hastened Wright on his way to the dressing-room with a few sharp words, but was grateful to the Arsenal striker for giving Forest, without a league win since the first day of the season, a boost ahead of their tough Christmas program.

"I told him he'd been a little bit silly and he basically agreed with me," said Pearce. "I'm pleased we've won the game, but we're still bottom of the table."

Champion Manchester United, in particular, is running back into form, with another Norwegian, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, and Eric Cantona both scoring twice in a 5-0 home thrashing of Sunderland.

Midfielder Nicky Butt scored the other with a header and United is now in fourth position, four points behind Arsenal and six behind Liverpool.

The result also justified manager Alex Ferguson's decision to leave Eoglan midfielder David Beckham on the bench to protect him from "burn-out" over the hectic festive period.

The only other member of the DIVISION ONE: Crystal Palace 1, Charlton 0, Grimsby 1, Bradford 1, Huddersfield 1, Queens Park Rangers 2, Ipswich 1, Stoke 1, Oldham 2, Manchester City 1, Port Vale 6, Norwich 1, Reading 0, Portsmouth 0, Sheffield United 0, Barnsley 1, Tranmere 0, Wolves 2, West Bromwich Albion 3, Oxford 3, West

BRITAIN: Wolves 2, West Bromwich Albion 3, Oxford 3, West Ham 1, Everton 0, Leeds 0, Leicester 0, Coventry 2, Manchester United 2, Sunderland 0, Nottingham Forest 2, Arsenal 1, Southampton 3, Derby 1, Tottenham 1, Sheffield Wednesday 1.

PREMIER LEAGUE: Chelsea 3, West Ham 1, Everton 0, Leeds 0, Leicester 0, Coventry 2, Manchester United 2, Sunderland 0, Nottingham Forest 2, Arsenal 1, Southampton 3, Derby 1, Tottenham 1, Sheffield Wednesday 1.

DIVISION TWO: Blackpool 3, York 0, Bradford 0, Preston 0, Bristol Rovers 3, Wycombe 4, Bury 0, Stockport 0, Chesterfield 1, Hartlepool 2, Lincoln 1, Hull 3, Doncaster 1, Scarborough 0, Fulham 2, Wigan 0, Rochdale 1, Wrexham 2, Bristol City 1.

DIVISION THREE: Barnet 1, Chester 2, Cardiff 1, Mansfield 2, Carlisle 3, Scunthorpe 2, Darlington 2, Torquay 3, Exeter 1, Swans 2, Hartlepool 2, Lincoln 1, Hull 3, Doncaster 1, Scarborough 0, Fulham 2, Wigan 0, Rochdale 1, Wrexham 2, Bristol City 1.

DIVISION FOUR: Gillingham 1, Luton 1, Bury 1, Macclesfield 1, Notts County 2, Walsley 1, Wrexham 2, Bristol City 1.

chasing pack in action yesterday was Chelsea which was also indebted to an overseas import in a 3-1 home win over West Ham.

Italian Gianfranco Zola scored a superb individual double from W. Hughes, shaking recent slump and on the fringe of eighth place.

Tottenham's Allan Nielsen a continental flavo goal in the Sheffield Wed Southampton claim home-gre scales.

Coventry won move out of the two goals from Southampton di 3-1 success again.

They are repl zone by Mic Blackburn, yet postponed beca Middlesbrough.

The only goal day was at Goc Leeds was inv successive stale: ed its unbeaten George Graham

SCORING Ian Wright, Arsenal, Robbie Fowler, Lee Roberts, Tottenham, Alan Shearer, Newcastle, Steve Finnan, Newcastle, Matthew Le Tissier, Southampton, Steve Bruce, Southampton, Dwight Yorke, Aston Villa, Ian Wright, Arsenal, Robbie Fowler, Lee Roberts, Tottenham, Alan Shearer, Newcastle, Steve Finnan, Newcastle, Matthew Le Tissier, Southampton, Steve Bruce, Southampton, Dwight Yorke, Aston Villa.

GP W O L GF GA Pts Fulham 24 13 4 7 38 17 46

GP W O L GF GA Pts Luton 23 13 4 6 37 24 44

GP W O L GF GA Pts Bury 23 13 4 6 37 24 44

GP W O L GF GA Pts Wigan 23 13 4 6 37 24 44

GP W O L GF GA Pts Macclesfield 23 13 4 6 37 24 44

GP W O L GF GA Pts Notts County 23 13 4 6 37 24 44

GP W O L GF GA Pts Walsley 23 13 4 6 37 24 44

Patriots down Giants, earn 1st-round bye

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) - Bill Parcells and the New England Patriots rallied from a 22-point halftime deficit to earn a first-round playoff bye yesterday in what apparently will be Dan Reeves' bye-by game with the New York Giants.

Drew Bledsoe capped the sensational comeback for New England (11-5) by throwing a 13-yard touchdown pass to Ben Coates on a fourth-and-seven play with 1:23 to go for a 23-22 win.

Coates dragged two Giants' defensive back the final yard for New England's third touchdown in the final 12:20, assuring the Patriots a week off and denying Reeves a going-away present.

Earlier in the week, Reeves said he expected the Giants (6-10) to fire him when the season ends, and indications are that could happen as soon as tomorrow.

This last loss was one of the toughest of his long coaching career. The Giants played a flawless first half in building a 22-0 lead, then collapsed in the second half.

All Blacks find their holy grail in rug

LONDON (Reuters) - This time not even a waitress could stop them. The rest of the rugby world may have used 1996 as a rebuilding year - but for the All Blacks it was all about making history.

In five attempts since 1928 a New Zealand touring team had over managed to win a series in South Africa. In August, they finally achieved it and any debate about the best team on the planet was given a hasty burial.

During the 1995 Rugby World Cup in South Africa, according to former coach Laurie Mains, the All Blacks' chances were sabotaged on the eve of the final by "Suzy," a still-undiscovered waitress who spiked tea and coffee at the team's Johannesburg hotel.

Whether or not the shadowy lady really was the X-factor behind the Springboks' success in the final, the central figure in 1996 was undoubtedly a hooker called Sean.

When New Zealand finally clinched the all-important second Test win in Pretoria, the abiding memory was the sight of Fitzpatrick lying motionless on the ground for 15 seconds as euphoria slugged it out with sheer exhaustion.



SIMPLY TOO STRONG - The All Blacks reclaimed their title as world's best ru

Their captain's inspirational efforts helped realize a dream which eclipsed even the All Blacks' victory in the inaugural World Cup in 1987. Most impressive of all, it was achieved in a style which stood comparison with any of the great New Zealand sides of the past.

Jonah Lomu, the giant of the World Cup, barely featured because of injury, yet his absence was hardly noticeable.

Winger Jeff Wilson assumed the try-scoring mantle, full-back Christian Cullen dazzled everyone in his first year of Test rugby and forwards Zinzan Brooke and Michael Jones confirmed their status alongside Fitzpatrick as genuine All Black legends.

It also spoke volumes for the skill of new coach John Hart, who would put the Colts on the road.

"This is a very important game for us," coach Andy Reid said.

It's also significant for the Bengals, who were eliminated from contention last week by the Colts' victory in Kansas City. Even though the Bengals had virtually no chance to qualify for postseason anyway, they like the idea of spoiling things for somebody else.

"That's something I want to do if I could. I want to knock them out," said cornerback Ashley Ambrose, who was a star in the Colts' playoff games last season. "I don't want them to go. They got us, so it's a revenge thing - get them back."

What's at stake is home-field advantage for the first playoff game. A loss today

still playing strong and know," defensive line said.

Indianapolis Colts on verge of another playoff appearan

CINCINNATI (AP) - A year after they came up one pass short of the Super Bowl, the Indianapolis Colts have another chance to make a run at it.

The Colts can reach the playoffs for a second consecutive season - an accomplishment by itself - by merely extending their dominance in Cincinnati today.

A victory over the resurgent Bengals would provide the Colts' first 10-victory season since 1977 and home-field advantage for the first wild-card game.

After losing the AFC championship game in Pittsburgh when a desperation pass fell incomplete in the end zone on the final play, the Colts (9-6) are arching for

another chance to get it right. "You go through the whole 16 weeks just trying to qualify for the postseason. We've put ourselves in position to do that," quarterback Jim Harbaugh said. "It's a good feeling to be still fighting for something this late in the season. We just want to get in and start the postseason."

Even if they lose to the Bengals (7-8), the Colts most likely will make it. The only way they can miss out on the playoffs is if they lose to Cincinnati, Jacksonville wins and Buffalo and Kansas City play to a tie.

Betar marches on after derby win



LOSING BATTLE - Zimbabwe batsman Andy Waller takes a crack at England's attack.

Crawley hundred gives England upper hand

BULAWAYO (Reuters) - A second Test century from John Crawley gave England the upper hand against Zimbabwe for the first time on the fourth day of the opening Test at Queen's Club yesterday.

Crawley's 112, his second century in successive Test matches, took England to 406 all out in its first innings and a potentially crucial lead of 30.

That performance was followed by the quick removal of the two openers Stuart Carlisle and Grant Flower in the Zimbabwe second innings. The English spinners then took a grip on the day as they collected another three wickets which meant that by stumps Zimbabwe had reached 107 for five, a lead of only 77.

Alan Mullally made the initial breakthrough when he had Carlisle caught at silly point by Mike Atherton for four and then, with the score still only on six, Darren Gough won a controversial lbw decision to remove Flower for a duck.

But there was no good fortune needed for the next three wickets as the spin duo of Robert Croft and Phil Tufnell got to work on a wearing pitch.

After a bright 51 run stand for the third wicket, Zimbabwe skipper Alistair Campbell was totally flummoxed by Croft's quicker arm ball and bowled for 29.

Slow-left armer Tufnell then got into the action as he had first innings centurion Andy Flower caught by Crawley at short-leg in his first over, the ball turning and bouncing out of the rough and flicking off the batsman's glove.

Then, in the penultimate over of the day, the Middlesex spinner took the crucial wicket of player/coach Dave Houghton whose grafting innings of 37 came to an end when he played across the spin and sent a leading edge out to Croft at mid-on.

Crawley's discipline had laid the foundation for the bowlers in the first two sessions as he added 112 to the century he made in his last Test against Pakistan at the Oval in August.

Resuming at 306 for four Crawley lost his overnight partner Nasser Hussain after a quiet first hour when the England vice-captain, pulling Heath Streak for what seemed a certain six, was brilliantly caught one handed-on the boundary by Bryan Strang.

Hussain had added just 12 to his overnight 101 and his 113 came from 278 balls with 14 boundaries. His dismissal also meant the end of a 148-run partnership for the fifth wicket with Crawley and resulted in the exposure of England's long tail.

When four wickets fell for the additional of just 25 runs, Zimbabwe looked likely to take the first innings lead but, in partnership with Mullally and Tufnell, Crawley put the innings back on track as the last two wickets added 53 important runs.

Crawley, who went to his century in spectacular fashion when he pulled a short ball from Streak for six, was finally the last man out, caught behind off the leg-spin of Paul Strang in an innings which lasted 297 balls and included nine fours and a six.

The deserving Strang bowled 58.4 overs and finished with five for 123.

England first innings (Overnight 306 for four)	
Nasser Hussain c Bryan Strang b Heath Streak	101
John Crawley c Andy Flower b Paul Strang	112
Robert Carlisle b Mike Atherton b Grant Flower	4
Grant Flower lbw b Robert Croft	0
Stuart Carlisle c Grant Flower b Henry Olonga	6
Darren Gough c David Houghton b Paul Strang	6
Alan Mullally c Andy Waller b Heath Streak	51
Phil Tufnell not out	29
Total 406 (5 wickets)	
Zimbabwe first innings (37)	
David Houghton c Robert Croft b Phil Tufnell	37
Grant Flower c Alan Mullally b Phil Tufnell	29
Stuart Carlisle not out	0
Andy Waller not out	0
Total 107 (5 wickets)	

Lou Eisenstein dies at 83

NEW YORK (AP) - Lou Eisenstein, who officiated NBA games for nearly 30 years and also worked 14 consecutive NIT finals, is dead at 83.

Eisenstein, who still worked scouting officials for the Atlantic Coast Conference, died at home of a heart attack Friday, said his son-in-law, Steve Shapiro.

An NYU graduate, Eisenstein was a founding member of the Collegiate Basketball Officials Association. He worked NBA games from the league's post-war beginning until 1976.

He also owned a sporting goods store in Brooklyn, where he lived all his life.

Eisenstein is survived by his widow, Esther Skitolsky Eisenstein; and four daughters, Nancy Steinberg and Robin Shapiro of New York; Laurie Boerboom of Atlanta; and Judith Marwell of University Park, Maryland and seven grandchildren.

SCOREBOARD

NFL - Friday's results: Anaheim 7, Calgary 0; Buffalo 6, Los Angeles 2; Washington 3, San Jose 2; Florida 3, Chicago 1; Phoenix 5, Toronto 2; New Jersey 3, Edmonton 2; Vancouver 3, Detroit 2; Dallas 4, Hartford 1.

Tuesday's results: Boston 3, Tampa Bay 0; Ottawa 5, Florida 2; Philadelphia 5, N.Y. Islanders 0; Pittsburgh 4, St. Louis 8.

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BETAR - Jerusalem seized the opportunity to increase its lead at the summit of the National League to five points, with an exciting 2-1 derby victory yesterday evening over Hapoel Jerusalem before a sellout crowd of over 13,000 at Teddy Stadium.

Betar's opportunity to improve its position came as second-placed Hapoel Petah Tikva was held to a goalless draw earlier in the day by visitors Maccabi Haifa. The Haifaites had midfielders Reuven Atar and Sergei Kandaurov sent off before halftime, and then forward Hezi Shirazi was flashed a red card after the interval for an atrocious challenge that left a nasty cut on the forehead of Petah Tikva goalkeeper Shai Hess.

Despite Maccabi being reduced to eight men, Hapoel was still unable to beat Nir Davidovich in the Haifa goal, hardly the sort of form to worry Betar coach Eli Cohen.

With two more rounds to play before the season's halfway point is reached, Betar has amassed a lead that already has its fans convinced that the club will take the title. At present there does not seem to be a club capable of putting together the sustained burst of form necessary knock the leaders off their stride.

Hapoel Haifa flopped yesterday to a 2-0 home defeat against the unfancied Zefirum Holon, while titlist Maccabi Tel Aviv seemed content to just go through the motions with a 1-0 victory over Rishon LeZion, rather than laying down the gauntlet to the Jerusalemites by putting their opponents to the sword. Hapoel Beersheba lost pace with the leaders, as Maccabi Petah Tikva held the southerners to a 2-2 draw.

These days, Moshe Simai's position at the helm of Hapoel Tel Aviv increasingly bears resemblance to the final days of a leader of some communist regime. The goalless draw in the mini Tel Aviv derby against Bnei Yehuda is enough to keep the Hapoel boss from toppling, but the feeling remains that the end is not far away.

Betar Jerusalem 2 Hapoel Jerusalem 1

A packed Teddy Stadium vocal with colorful banners and a wach crowd provided a perfect backdrop for this hotly contested derby match in which the Hapoel fans were outnumbered seven-to-one by their Betar counterparts.

Willie Betar's dominance was never in question, Hapoel put on a gutsy performance, and refused to give up. Despite the absence of its talented Hungarian duo, Betar moved purposefully around the field feeding Komnen Harazi with a ball that allowed him to test Yaroslav Baku in the Hapoel goal early on. Romeo Schweig had something to say at the other end, pulling his shot just wide of Itzik Kornfein's goal.

Betar's opener came from a direct free kick in the 35th minute by Itzik Zohar who beat a four-man wall and Baku with a glorious 18-meter spinning drive that looped into the top right corner of the Hapoel goal.

Just before the break Eli Ohana nucked the ball under Baku's body and into goal, when the Hapoel defense allowed itself to become outnumbered.

Twenty minutes after the break Michel Dayan duplicated Zohar's goal, as he drilled a free kick from the other side into the back of Kornfein's net.

Both sides had further opportunities to score, but it was Hapoel's Yair Assayag who came closest with a header that Kornfein instinctively palmed away to secure Betar's derby triumph.

Maccabi Tel Aviv 1 Ironi Rishon LeZion 0

Another below-par performance from the current champions. Despite having many chances to register a more convincing scoreline the Tel Avivians proved unable to improve on Alon Brumer's 30-meter bombshell that screeched into the back of the Rishon net in the 10th minute.

The game improved markedly in the second half as Rishon forced its way into the game, and Maccabi responded by upping the tempo.

Both sides had opportunities to score from the spot. In the 61st minute Rishon's Tomas Cibola was tripped in the area by Ron Nachman, but Alexander Orbarov parried away Eitan Shalom's penalty for a corner. Twenty minutes later a header by Tel Aviv substitute Eli Driks hit the arm of Oded Tzahi. This time it was the turn of Ironi goalkeeper Sagi Strauss to provide the heroics as he stretched to block Avi Nimni's penalty kick.

The poor attendance of 4,000 indicates that the fans have become disillusioned with Maccabi's lack of flair and adventure this season, and more importantly suggests that its supporters are beginning to accept that the chances of retaining the title are fast evaporating.

Hapoel Taiba 0 Hapoel Kfar Sava 3

Taiba's miserable run continues with this defeat. The Taibans have amassed just one point from their last seven outings. At times, the host defense appeared to be asleep as it left Kfar Sava's forwards to their own devices in the area.

Yaniv Abargil opened the scoring in the 16th minute heading a backflick in past the Taiba keeper. Five minutes before the interval, an Ofer Cohen free kick found Tomer Shem-Tov in space and unmarked on the right inside the Taiba box. Shem-Tov made no bones about making his shot count as he guided the ball into the left

DEREK FATTAL and ORI LEWIS

had corner of the goal.

Assi Tubi combined with Ofer Cohen to deliver the final blow six minutes before the end of the game, as Kfar Sava was left unchallenged in front of goal.

Hapoel Petah Tikva 0 Maccabi Haifa 0

Haifa will be thanking their lucky stars after surviving a nightmarc match in Petah Tikva.

The Haifaies somehow held on for a draw after being reduced to eight men following three sendings off by referee Meir Levy.

First, Reuven Atar was sent for an early shower when he collected his second yellow card in the 20th minute.

Sergei Kandaurov joined Atar in the Haifa dressing room just five minutes later after he had made an uncomplimentary remark about the referee's mother; and finally, Hezi Shirazi was given his marching orders early in the second half after a crude challenge on Petah Tikva goalkeeper Shai Hess.

Petah Tikva failed to take advantage of the situation and for all its efforts could not find its way past Haifa goalkeeper Nir Davidovich.

Petah Tikva's afternoon was summed up by a missed chance in the dying moments when Manor Hassan's shot rebounded off the post in what should have been an easy slot home.

Hapoel Haifa 0 Zefirum Holon 2

The surprise result of the afternoon saw lowly Holon take full advantage of Haifa's disarray in midfield and in defense.

Itzik Suissa put Holon ahead in a surprising move in the 22nd minute and subsequent attempts by Haifa to get back on level terms came to naught as the home side failed to put together any effective moves.

The pressure on Haifa to deliver a sixth consecutive league win told as the defense left gaping holes for Holon's players to find a way to Rafi Cohen's goal. The visitors put the game out of Haifa's reach on 52 minutes when Oren Zeinuni added Holon's second goal. It became clear that all Haifa's efforts would be futile as it became more frustrated with the minutes ticking away until the final whistle.

Hapoel Beersheba 2 Maccabi Petah Tikva 2

Petah Tikva came to the Negev and put on an excellent display which forced the home side to do likewise.

The best, and highest-scoring match of the round was an end-to-end affair with Petah Tikva getting off the mark first after Najwan Grayev slotted home from close range in the fifth minute.

Liron Bassis countered for Beersheba just five minutes later when he pounced on Giovanni Russo's long-range shot which

National League

P	W	D	L	Gf	Ga	Dif.	Pts
Betar Jerusalem	13	11	2	30	8	22	35
Hapoel Petah Tikva	13	9	3	1	27	13	30
Hapoel Beersheba	13	6	1	4	20	11	9
Maccabi Tel Aviv	13	7	4	2	22	14	6
Maccabi Petah Tikva	13	6	3	4	18	14	2
Bnei Yehuda	13	6	3	4	15	15	21
Hapoel Haifa	13	6	1	6	21	16	3
Hapoel Kfar Sava	13	6	1	6	13	11	2
Maccabi Haifa	13	4	5	4	14	15	-1
Zefirum Holon	13	3	4	6	10	14	-4
Maccabi Kiryat Gat	13	4	1	6	11	12	-5
Hapoel Jerusalem	13	4	1	6	11	20	-9
Ironi Rishon LeZion	13	4	1	6	13	25	-12
Hapoel Tel Aviv	13	2	4	7	7	16	-9
Hapoel Taiba	13	3	1	9	10	24	-14
Hapoel Beit She'an	13	2	3	8	9	15	-6

Second Division

P	W	D	L	Gf	Ga	Dif.	Pts
Hakoah Ramat Gan	12	6	2	2	26	10	16
Hapoel Ashdod	12	6	1	3	1	6	9
Ironi Ashdod	12	6	5	1	21	12	9
Hapoel Bat Yam	12	6	3	3	19	10	9
Maccabi Netanya 12	12	5	3	2	2	16	6
Maccabi Kiryat Gat	12	4	4	4	5	13	5
Hapoel Ramat Gan	12	4	5	3	13	8	5
Maccabi Kfar Kana	12	5	2	5	11	16	-7
Ness Ziona	12	4	3	5	16	15	1
Hapoel Ashdod	12	3	4	5	14	16	-2
Betar Tel Aviv	12	3	4	5	13	16	-3
Maccabi Yavne	12	4	1	7	12	16	-4
Maccabi Acre	12	4	4	5	10	16	-6
Hapoel Kiryat Shmona	12	2	4	6	6	15	-9
Hapoel Hadera	12	1	5	6	6	15	-7
Maccabi Jaffa	12	1	4	7	11	19	-8

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Hapoel Haifa (0) 0 Zefirum Holon (1) 2
Itzik Suissa, 22
Oren Zeinuni, 52

Hapoel Beersheba (1) 2 Maccabi Petah Tikva (2) 2
Liron Bassis, 10
Dudu Heffer, 49
Maccabi Herzliya (1) 2 Najwan Grayev, 5
Ofer Shirat, 44
Hapoel Beit She'an (0) 0
Oleg Neduda, 28
Yaniv Cohen, 80
Maccabi Tel Aviv (1) 1 Ironi Rishon LeZion (0) 0
Alon Brumer, 10
Betar Jerusalem (2) 2 Hapoel Jerusalem (0) 1
Itzik Zohar, 35
Eli Ohana, 45
Bnei Yehuda (0) 0 Hapoel Tel Aviv (0) 0
Hapoel Taiba (0) 0 Hapoel Kfar Sava (2) 3
Yaniv Abargil, 16
Tomer Shem-Tov, 40
Assi Tubi, 84
Maccabi Haifa (0) 0

SECOND DIVISION

Maccabi Acre 0 Hapoel Ashdod 0
Hapoel Ramat Gan 1 Maccabi Jaffa 1
Ness Ziona 2 Maccabi Kfar Kana 0
Maccabi Yavne 1 Maccabi Netanya 1
Hapoel Hadera 0 Hapoel Kiryat Shmona 1
Maccabi Kiryat Gat 0 Hapoel Ashdod 2
Betar Tel Aviv 1 Hapoel Bat Yam 1
Ironi Ashdod 3 Hakoah Ramat Gan 1

This week's winning Sportfoto line: 2X1,1,1,X,2,X,XX,1,X,2,2,2
This week's winning Toto Plus line: 2,2,1,1,1,X,2,XX,1,X,2,2
Winning Tototoko numbers: 2, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 28.

Knicks' Houston has field day with Sixers

PHILADELPHIA - Allan Houston is no Jerry Stackhouse. But in one important way, Stackhouse is no Houston either as demonstrated in the New York Knicks' 110-103 win over the Philadelphia 76ers Friday night at the CoreStates Center.

Houston, a pure shooting guard, scored most of his season-high 32 points from the outside as the Knicks (17-7) rebounded from their worst performance in 10 years and avenged a pair of earlier defeats to Philly this season.

Meanwhile, Stackhouse, a dynamic player in the open court, is having trouble with his jump shot and continued it last night.

Stack, who came into the game hitting only 38 percent of his shots from the field, was cold until the final minutes and finished 7-for-16 as the Sixers dropped their ninth straight game.

Derrick Coleman (11 points, 12

rebounds) helped Philadelphia (7-17) lead as late as midway through the third quarter. But, again, the Sixers began missing and turning the ball over at an alarming rate late in the third and early in the fourth.

New York, paced by Houston, Patrick Ewing (21 points, 14 rebounds) and Larry Johnson (18 points, seven boards), led by as many as 18 before Philly closed to within five late.

The Sixers had six players score in double figures, including Stackhouse (25), Allec Iverson (22), Scott Williams (10), Mark Davis (14) and Clarence Weatherspoon (10).

And the hosts won the battle of the boards (51-41), points in the paint (48-32) and second-chance points (17-9).

But Philly turned the ball over a fatal 24 times, leading to 35 points, and had just 14 assists, compared to New York's 30.

"Right oow, I don't think we're a very good ballhandling basketball team. We just can't keep turning the ball over and expect to win. Most are of the unforced variety," lamented Sixer coach Johnny Davis.

"We knew we would have growing pains this year. Certainly not to this degree. We need to play with more confidence."

(The Allentown Morning Call)

FRIDAY'S RESULTS:
Seattle 102, LA Clippers 82
Cleveland 91, Toronto 86
Detroit 84, Indiana 75
New York 110, Philadelphia 103
Utah 98, Orlando 93
Denver 108, Vancouver 93
Portland 107, Dallas 77
Atlanta 109, New Jersey 95

THURSDAY'S RESULTS:
Toronto 96, Milwaukee 93
Utah 94, Miami 87 (OT)
Chicago 93, Charlotte 72
San Antonio 115, Houston 101
Dallas 105, Vancouver 98
Washington 102, LA Clippers 93
Sacramento 112, Minnesota 105

NATIONAL LEAGUE

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Betar Jerusalem	13	11	2	30	8	22	35
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Ironi Rishon LeZion	13	4	1	6	13	25	-12
Hapoel Tel Aviv	13	2	4	7	7	16	-9
Hapoel Taiba	13	3	1	9	10	24	-14
Hapoel Beit She'an	13	2	3	8	9	15	-6

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Maccabi Kfar Kana	12	5	2	5	11	16	-7
Ness Ziona	12	4	3	5	16	15	1
Hapoel Ashdod	12	3	4	5	14	16	-2
Betar Tel Aviv	12	3	4	5	13	16	-3
Maccabi Yavne	12	4	1	7	12	16	-4
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Hapoel Kiryat Shmona	12	2	4	6	6	15	-9
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Yaniv Abargil, 16
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Assi Tubi, 84
Maccabi Haifa (0) 0

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Hapoel Hadera 0 Hapoel Kiryat Shmona 1
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Winning Tototoko numbers: 2, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 28.

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Last Change

NYSE stocks
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Other stock market indexes
FTSE 100 Last Change

Israeli stocks in US
NYSE / AMEX / NASDAQ / OTC

Other stock market indexes
FTSE 100 Last Change

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Dollar crossrates (US)

INTL MONEY MARKETS
Dollar crossrates (US)

INTL MONEY MARKETS
Dollar crossrates (US)

INTL MONEY MARKETS
Dollar crossrates (US)

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US commodities

Blue chips rise

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Blue-chip stocks ended a volatile session with modest gains Friday as the so-called triple-witching options and futures expirations produced the third biggest day's trading volume ever on the New York Stock Exchange.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 10.76 points to 6,484.40. In early trading, the Dow rose 75 points to 6,548.99, putting it a shade above its record close of 6,547.79 set on November 25.

For the week, the Dow was up 179.53, its strongest week since the first full week of November, when blue chips began a scorching month-long rally of more than 500 points.

In the broader market, advancing issues swamped declines 1,535 to 968 on very heavy volume of 650 million shares on the NYSE, the third largest total in history and the highest since July 16, when the exchange handled a record 680.3 million shares in volume.

Dow lives the good life another week

WALL STREET WEEK

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Just when everyone thought that the longest bull market ever was heading for a fall, Wall Street enjoyed a spectacular rally, and the experts see more good times for stocks next year.

It was another week of La Dolce Vita for bullish investors as the market roared back up after it was sent reeling on concern about rising interest rates and Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan's now famous warning of irrational exuberance in financial markets.

The strongest bull market of all time exploded anew, with the Dow Jones industrial average racking up its second biggest gain in history as the so-called Santa Claus rally came to Wall Street.

The index of 30 blue-chip stocks Thursday leaped 126.87 points - its steepest rise since a scorching 186.84 points gain on Oct. 21, 1987.

On Friday, the Dow closed up 10.76 at 6,484.40, nearing its record close of 6,547.79 set on November 25. For the week, it was up 179.53 points.

What made the Dow's jump even more dazzling was the fact that it was just coming off a loss of 200 points after November's fierce rally of 500 points.

Stocks have been on a fast-paced rise for the last six years and on a rocket ride this year, soaring more than 1,300 points since January.

The experts say investors are comfortable with the way the economy is buzzing along, growing at a comfortable pace with inflation subdued.

With less than two weeks left before 1996 is history, analysts say things are fundamentally the same and there was nothing worrisome in the economy's future that could dramatically change the course of the market.

The interest rate environment is still favorable, inflation is not threatening and the economy is growing but at a more subdued pace, which paints a rosy scenario for stocks.

The United States also has become the home of the world's strongest stock market, they say, and it is a magnet for foreign investment.

And, the way stocks close out the year may be a sign of how they will do in 1997, at least in the early part of the year.

Eurobourses follow

Wall Street higher

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - European bourses ended higher on Friday but off their best levels for the day after Wall Street burst higher in early trading, only to shy away from its highs.

Surging US stocks propelled London's benchmark FTSE 100 to an intraday record at 4,100 briefly, before slowly giving back gains. The index ended 26.3 points higher at 4,077.6.

German shares charged ahead on Friday. The DAX index of 30 top German shares ended up 46.70 points, or 1.66% at 2,854.45. But in post-bourse computerized trading, the Ibis DAX was up just 10.71, or 0.38%, at 2,835.54 having fallen back from the earlier highs in sympathy with other markets.

French shares closed with a jump of more than 1% in heavy turnover.

Dollar mixed in light pre-holiday trade

CURRENCY REPORT

NEW YORK (Reuters) - The dollar drifted higher against the Japanese yen, but it fell against the German mark in quiet trading Friday, as traders looked to lock in profits before Christmas and New Year.

In very light trading, the dollar fell to 1.5515 marks from 1.5575 late on Thursday.

Meanwhile, a weak Japanese economy and spattering stock market weighed on the yen, helping the dollar edge up to 114.27 yen late Friday from 114.03 yen late Thursday.

The market winds down early for Christmas and the New Year, and traders said they were setting holiday plans. For many, Friday was the last day before week-long vacations and many trading centers are closed for at least two days over the next two weeks.

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS
Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)
Currency (deposit for) 3 MONTHS 6 MONTHS 12 MONTHS

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (20.12.96)
Currency basket 3,6197 3,6761
U.S. dollar 3,2438 3,2982

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INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES
NEW YORK (continued)

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES
LONDON

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES
LONDON (continued)

Turkey, Iran

pledge closer ties despite US

ANKARA (Reuters) - Turkey and Iran signed several accords yesterday to boost economic relations following top-level talks between the two neighbors in defiance of US efforts to isolate Tehran.

"If the agreements we have signed disturb other countries, it is their problem," Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani told a news conference after signing the accords with Turkish President Suleyman Demirel in Ankara.

"The policy of (the United States of) America is to prevent strong countries in this region from cooperating," said Rafsanjani, on the third day of a four-day visit.

"I don't think America can change our cooperation policy with Turkey. The Turkish president, prime minister and we are determined not to allow America to dictate anything to our region."

The US government on Friday expressed disapproval of Rafsanjani's visit to the NATO member Turkey and advised Ankara against improving relations with Tehran.

The United States, a close ally of NATO member Turkey, has accused Iran of sponsoring terrorism. Iran denies the charge.

Rafsanjani's visit marks a step forward in strengthening relations between the two Muslim countries since Necmettin Erbakan became Turkey's first Islamist prime minister in June.

"A turn to Islamic movement has started in Turkey. And the latest general elections is the best example of this," he said of the Welfare Party of Erbakan, which narrowly came first in the December 1995 elections.

The Islamist-led Turkish government and Iran aim to double the two-way trade volume to \$2 billion from 1997, enable easier

capital flow for investments and benefit from port facilities in the three agreements.

A memorandum of understanding will enable cooperation in environmental matters and a protocol envisages establishing a common chamber of commerce and industry to enable communication between the two countries' industrial firms.

The sides also agreed to open credit lines worth \$150 million to each other to finance bilateral trade.

Turkey said on Friday it would renew a current oil import agreement with Iran to continue to buy 4.5 million tonnes of Iranian crude from April, when the current agreement expires.

The presidential talks followed a series of joint economic meetings earlier in the week in which senior Turkish and Iranian officials agreed to launch air links on Istanbul-Tabriz and Ankara-Tehran lines and improve a rail link from Tehran to eastern Turkey.

Turkish officials have said a six-month study would be launched to investigate the feasibility of a pipeline to carry Iranian oil to Western markets through Turkey.

Iran and Turkey agreed in August in Tehran to build a pipeline to carry three billion cubic metres of Iranian gas annually to Turkey from 1998 under a 23-year, \$2.3 billion deal.

The pipeline and gas deal was struck days after US President Bill Clinton signed a law imposing sanctions on any company investing over \$40m, a year in energy projects in Iran or Libya.

Ankara said the deal would not be affected by US sanctions because Turkey was only constructing the stretch of pipeline on its own territory, for which it announced a tender last week.

Apple to acquire NeXT in \$400m. deal

CUPERTINO, Calif. (Friday) - Apple Computer Inc. Friday agreed to acquire NeXT Software Inc. for \$400 million, a stunning move that reunites the computer company with its cofounder, Steven Jobs.

The acquisition will give Apple the software technology it needs to revamp the Macintosh personal computer, which has lost much of its technological luster to PCs running software from Microsoft Corp.

"The Mac has provided the innovation that the industry has been feeding off for the last 10 years," Jobs said. "It's time for someone to come up with innovation to drive the industry forward. Who better than Apple?"

Apple Chief Financial Officer Fred Anderson said the company will pay \$350m, mostly in cash and a little stock, for Redwood City, Calif.-based NeXT. Apple also will pay off NeXT's \$50m debt.

Jobs, who founded Apple with a friend in his garage 20 years ago, led Apple through its early years until he was fired by the company's board in 1985.

Apple said he will come back to Apple part-time to lead an effort to rewrite the fundamental software of the Macintosh. He will report to Apple chairman Gilbert Amelio.

Apple will base much of its next-generation operating system - the computer program that controls the basic function of the Mac - on NeXTstep.

NeXT's technology will not only provide many of the software bells and whistles that Apple needs to compete with Microsoft's

Windows, but will attract outside software companies to write new titles for the Mac, Amelio said.

"Without question, the technology at NeXT was the superior technology, by a significant margin," Amelio said.

Apple had been for months looking outside for help after having abandoned an unfinished operating system code-named "Copland."

The company looked at operating system technology and multimedia software from companies such as Sun Microsystems Inc. and closely held Be Inc.

Amelio said with NeXT's existing technology, he hopes Apple will have a new operating system in 1997.

For Jobs, the cheerleader who installed an attitude in Apple that the company was out to change the world, the merger is another stop in a strange odyssey.

After being fired by his successor John Sculley in 1985, he left to found NeXT, which initially made a line of whiz-bang computers.

When NeXT ran into financial trouble in the late 1980s, the company dropped its computers to concentrate on software. In the past two years, NeXT has been selling a line of reasonably successful software for creating sites on the Internet's World Wide Web.

Meanwhile, Jobs helped cofound Pixar Animation Studios, a production studio that uses powerful computers instead of drawings. The company made last year's hit Toy Story.

Jobs said he will continue to run Pixar.

French air force runs out of gas

PARIS (Reuters) - The French air force has canceled training flights until the New Year after using up its fuel sources said yesterday.

They said training flights had been halted a week ago, confining pilots to flight simulation exercises, and some airbases were cutting down on heating.

Strategic fuel reserves were maintained for emergencies and operations abroad were not affected.

"In 20 years of service, I have never seen such a drastic step," Colonel Andre de Rognefeuil, commander of an eastern air base, told France-3 television.

A Defence Ministry spokeswoman declined to comment. France-3 said the budget had been spent because of higher than expected costs for fuel and operations in the Middle East and Bosnia.

Norway parliament adopts tight 1997 budget

OSLO (Reuters) - The Norwegian parliament yesterday adopted a tight 1997 national budget in line with a compromise reached a week ago between the Labor minority government and the opposition.

"The Norwegian economy is not over-taxed and the task now is to prevent it from becoming that," Prime Minister Thorbjorn Jagland told the legislature.

"This is a budget that all the parties can stand up for," he said.

Under the compromise, an extra 3.5 billion Norwegian crown (\$540 million) will be allocated to local governments for welfare spending than the government planned for in the revised final draft on November 29.

The extra allocations will be covered mainly through a 3.5 percent rise on alcohol, tobacco and petrol taxes, thus leaving the budget balance intact.

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